

Historical Sketches

of

Kidron,
Ohio



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FROM ACORN TO OAK IN 35 YEARS



The enormous business growth of Kidron in the last 35 years is marvelous. At the turn of the century the gross sales in the little store amounted to around \$2000 per year. The gross sales for 1935, including the weekly auction sales, hover around \$1,000,000. One might ask, why this tremendous growth when in some larger centers business places are vacated? To find the answer we would have to go back to the early settlers who brought the pioneering spirit from Switzerland, a spirit that looks forward and upward. The credit for this growth does not belong to the merchants alone, but an equal share belongs to the thrifty and prosperous conditions of the farmers in the surrounding community. The Merchants value these prosperous farmers highly and cater to their business by throwing out inducements in the form of good standard merchandise at prices that are often hard to meet by merchants in larger centers, even with inferior merchandise, with corresponding larger overhead expenses.

—Harvey Gardner, Publisher.

This little town had its start back in the eighties when Mr. Christ Tschantz, now deceased, erected the first dwelling house, and established the first industry by starting a cheese factory, which, by the cooperation of the farmers of the community, proved to be a success. The land was then owned by the following farmers: southeast corner of present square of Kidron by Nickolas Amstutz, northeast by Christian Amstutz, northwest by Peter Saurer Sr., southwest by Joel F. Amstutz. All this was valuable farming land and was later sold in parcels to present owners; some has changed ownership several times since. Former owners have all passed away years ago.

In the early nineties a post office was installed. This was a great factor to the people of the community. Mr. Tschantz,

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the cheese manufacturer, was appointed the first postmaster, with his daughter's assistance, who very ably handled the mail of Uncle Sam. In connection with the Post Office, Mr. Tschantz also operated a small grocery store and bought farm produce in exchange, which was a valuable asset to the little town. The mail was transported by star route to and from Orrville for several years and later from Apple Creek until Rural Delivery was established—one route from Apple Creek in 1903, and later another from Dalton. Our post office was then discontinued, to the regret of many patrons who preferred to get their mail at the office rather than having their mail delivered at the end of a long lane. Later every one got accustomed to the service. (The above mentioned rural routes are still in operation.)



D. A. SOMMER

D. A. Sommer was born Jan. 16, 1861 and reared on the home farm one mile northeast of Kidron, was married to Mary Saltzman on the 22nd day of February 1887. Three children were born to this union—Alvin B., Willis and Carrie who are all married and in business.

Mr. Sommer had been a farmer up to the time he moved to Kidron in the spring of 1902 to try a hand in merchandising. There was only one dwelling house, cheese factory and a small store, consequently the two families had to live in one house.

At that time Kidron had a post office and Mr. Sommer served as acting postmaster up to the time it was discontinued. Later on the Kidron Telephone was organized and he was the first operator for the company and later was one of the presidents of the company. Mr. Sommer started in business in a very small way but soon had built up an extensive trade with the surrounding community and the fact that his trade increased from

year to year shows that the keynote to success in business is fair dealing and courteous treatment. Mr. Sommer states that the credit of his success does not belong to him alone, but also to his wife and children and to the customers that patronized his store.

In the year 1902, Mr. D. A. Sommer with his family moved to town and bought out Mr. C. Tschantz and for twenty-six years conducted the store successfully. In 1928 he sold out to his son Willis and Elam Gerber, who operated the store at the same place until 1930 when they moved to the new building on the square, the I. G. A. Store, where they have a thriving business. A chick hatchery is in operation in the old store room—Malva Kauffman of Berlin, Proprietor. Later sold to Amstutz Hatcheries.

The same year that Mr. Tschantz sold his store to D. A. Sommer he also sold his cheese business to the Kidron Cheese Company, consisting of farmers of the community. The company employed Albert Wyss to operate same, which he did for nine years up to 1911, when Mr. Fred Grossen was employed and has since been operating the business until the present time with the exception of the season of 1933, when Rudy Sommer of Mt. Hope was conducting the business. Mr. Sommer and family have moved back to Mt. Hope again. Mr. Grossen operates a cheese market at Riceland on the Lincoln Highway in connection with manufacturing cheese at Kidron.

In 1923 Harvey Gardner erected a building on Main St., where he successfully operated a creamery and later also a grocery. This he operated for two years, and then sold to A. W. Sommer, who conducted a thriving business in groceries and general merchandise, also serving lunch on sale days. He closed his business Dec. 31, 1933, selling to Sommer & Gerber, who operated a restaurant for a few months and later sold out to Warren Miller and Evan Amstutz, who are conducting an up to date restaurant business. This was later sold to Paul Gerber, son of David C. Gerber, the present owner.

Construction Work in Kidron

The carpenters who did the constructing of the first buildings in Kidron were Jacob Buss Sr., deceased, and Rudy Beeler now of Cleveland. Those who did most of the carpenter work later on were the Gerber Bros. & Co. Construction gang, many of them still on the job. Others who recently did much of erecting of buildings were the Nussbaum Bros. and others.

Moser Bros. now of Dalton did much of the Mason and bricklaying, also carpenter work assisted by others. William and Roy Sprunger and Adam J. Hofstetter were also among the carpenters.

Painters who did most of that work are almost too numerous to mention.

About 1900 another business was started. E. P. Gerber, the hustling hardware and lumber dealer started in the lumber and planing business about then, on a farm $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Kidron, and later in about 1903 he moved his business to town

where it was operated under more extensive and modern equipment. At that time he also erected his present residence. About that same time he took in as partner his brother-in-law, Solomon Gerber, who built the home for his family now occupied by Rev. and Mrs. Jacob Moser. They together conducted the business for many years. In 1908 this partnership was dissolved by Solomon selling his interest to E. P. Gerber, who conducted the business successfully to the present time. Mr. Solomon Gerber sold his home to Mr. and Mrs. A. Lehman, both deceased, who lived there only a short time when the property



E. P. GERBER

In one of the early issues of the Kidron News appeared an advertisement with the heading, "A Hardware Store since 1904." That meant the store of Mr. E. P. Gerber, the gentleman whose picture is shown here.

Mr. Gerber grew to manhood on a farm located several miles north-east of Kidron. The buildings on the old homestead have long since vanished, but the memory of them still lingers in Mr. Gerber's mind. He has been planning to construct a mental picture of them and have a stereotype made of it, and that picture to be used in his History of the Gerber family, which he is writing as a side line to his business.

He has several other hobbies beside writing a history. One is the propagating by grafting of nut trees. We have often heard of grafting fruit trees, but few people know that nut trees can also be grafted.

To say that Mr. Gerber has been successful in a business way is not necessary. One needs but to take a look at his up-to-date Hardware and Lumber business for the answer. To find the answer to why he is successful one needs but to make his acquaintance. His genial disposition and his desire to please go a long way toward a successful career in life.



E. P. GERBER'S HARDWARE AND LUMBER

Built in 1918

The hardware and lumber business of E. P. Gerber had its beginning in 1902 in a small building to the rear of this massive structure. The saying "From a small acorn a large oak may grow" is equally true in a business way if one has the patience and perseverance that Mr. Gerber had. In his early business ventures he had a portable planer and would do planing for customers. His first car of lumber was hauled by teams from Apple Creek.

At present he employs four men, besides some extra help in rush seasons. His two sons, Edwin and Orren, are now young men and take an active interest in their father's business. Edwin is married and lives in the north end of town.

Mr. Gerber's Hardware and Lumber business is known far and wide for a place where building material and hardware can be bought at prices that are consistent with quality and where courtesy and fair dealing are the ruling factors.

was sold to Rev. Jacob Moser. From time to time and year after year as business increased, E. P. Gerber made extensive improvements and additions to his business which now exceeds establishments of many larger towns.

Another business came into existence about the same time, 1903, when Jacob Sommer and John J. Bixler, former thrasher, abandoned that business and entered the grain and feed business, operating a grain elevator and in connection also conducted an extensive implement business. Later this partnership was dissolved when John Bixler bought a farm two miles east of town where he moved with his family, and Mr. Sommer became sole owner of the business, and with the assistance of members of his family conducted the business for many years. He also entered the livestock shipping business, which was for many years a leading industry up to the time when the famous Kidron Auction was established.

In the year 1931 when Mr. Sommer suddenly passed away, his son Lloyd took up the grain business, which with his able employees, he conducted in a creditable manner.

In the early part of the 20th century a blacksmith shop was erected in the east part of town, which was operated by a number of men. John F. Moser now of Dalton was the first blacksmith, who also erected another building near by, which he used for storage of buggies which he had shipped in by carloads, that being a leading industry at that time. Later George Houmard operated same for a number of years and still later Floyd R. Saurer bought the shop and operates it at present.

Another addition was the opening of the first garage by A. B. Sommer in the year 1915 and later has extensively enlarged his business quarters in the form of a modern and well equipped garage and at present he also conducts a store dealing mainly in stoves, also auto supplies and other merchandise. He has also had the salesmanship of automobiles for many years. Menno Nussbaum at present operates the garage, which keeps him busy and often employs other necessary help.

In the year 1924, Elam Gerber entered the garage business, in the building formerly used as a buggy shop, which he has successfully operated until March, 1927, when he sold out to Vernon Saurer and Albert Badertscher, who operated at the same place until 1933 when they built a more modern structure of tile block (manufactured by the Orrville Tile Plant) on South Main St. in the main business section where they are doing a fine business.

Another industry is also worth mentioning, the trucking business of Adam D. Amstutz, who started in business with hauling cream, eggs, and other produce, and later was associated with the Noaker Co. of Canton, as their representative in this section, and later with the Orrville Milk Condensing Co. He also does other trucking occasionally. For a number of years he also operated a barber shop here in town.

Glenn Nussbaum, coal dealer for the town and community, also does other trucking and is engaged in hauling Milk to the Orrville Condensery, assisted by his brother Ivan Nussbaum.

In the year 1928, a new industry came to town when Wm. Nussbaum erected a building to operate a feed grinder and in connection with this is a dealer in all kinds of grain and feed and about a year ago he also installed a flour mill and is now equipped to serve the public in exchanging flour and feed for wheat which is a valuable accommodation to the farmers and others as well.

Now last but not least we want to mention about religious privileges. Besides the churches already existing in our community, a group of worshippers erected a building almost in the heart of Kidron where regular services are held each Sunday and mid-week. Special services are occasionally held by various outside speakers and a special feature is the Annual Bible Conference held each year in May or June. Rev. A. W. Sommer is the pastor and founder of the congregation.

Kidron is also very well supplied with never failing water. Besides several good fountains and wells, the greater part of town is supplied by a never failing spring located at the west end of town which furnishes the clearest water, through a pipe system reaching about 20 different residences and business places.

A well organized tennis court is located at the east end of town, where plenty of amusement and recreation is offered to the public. Officers are annually elected, who are performing their duties creditably. Near by is the camping ground, consisting of dining hall and sleeping quarters for a large number of people. This serves as an outing camp for children of the Jewish Mission of Cleveland, which annually assembles here, for an outing. The grounds are also used occasionally to hold outdoor meetings by the group. It is also supplied by a spring of clear water piped in from a near by spring. The grounds are being donated by the A. W. Sommer family.

Some time after the Post Office and other business was established in Kidron another thing of vast importance and interest came into existence. After several surveys for a railroad were made it finally materialized and grading was started in the summer of 1900. Many of the homes were turned into boarding houses to accommodate the large number of laborers working on the grade.

Tracks were laid late that year and early in 1901. It was in that year that the first train was run over the tracks. It was hoped that this would help the town to rapid growth, but since it was only a branch which terminated at West Lebanon, which was a coal district at that time, it did not prove to be what was anticipated.

For many years practically all the freight was shipped in and out of Kidron by railroad. Kidron was a regular livestock shipping point, having stockyards and scales. Much grain, timber and cheese was shipped out of here and hundreds of carloads of feed, coal, lime, lumber and other merchandise were shipped in. Quite a few excursions with a large delegation went out of here to various places. But to the dismay of

the people, after futile attempts by petition to retain the railroad, it was decided by the R. R. Co. to discontinue and we were very reluctant to see them take up the tracks, which was done in 1926. At first it seemed to handicap the business at Kidron, but the merchants and business firms, being of an ambitious nature got busy and purchased trucks and are doing their transporting in this way and so Kidron has been booming just like before.

Kidron was spared from serious calamities such as floods and other epidemics. The only accidental death which occurred right in town was that of Daniel Steffen, who was run over by a team of horses which he was trying to hold while a train engine shifted cars on the tracks. He was survived by his wife and two small sons who are now prosperous farmers in this community. The tragedy occurred in 1914 and was a shock to every one. Numerous smaller accidents occurred which were not serious and are not reported.

In speaking of accidents Kidron has been seriously affected. The most serious accident occurring to residents of Kidron, was that of the Harvey Sprunger family, who were struck by a fast train at Orrville while crossing the tracks on Saturday evening, Oct. 28, 1933, resulting in the death of Mrs. Sprunger and their two sons Merle and Richard. The injured ones were taken to a Wooster Hospital where Mr. Sprunger was kept for treatment, returning to his home a week later. Marjorie, only daughter, was the only one escaping injury. This tragedy seriously affected the whole community. A triple funeral was held from the home, and Mt. Eaton Reformed Church.

Not long after the above accident Glenford Gerber, small son of E. P. Gerber, hardware dealer, was knocked down by a passing car, near their store, seriously injuring the lad, who was then taken to the Massillon City hospital for treatment and seemed to be in a serious condition for over a week. He soon showed some improvement and now seems to be restored to perfect health.

Another accident which affected residents of Kidron, happened on Feb. 2, 1934 to an automobile party composed of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Sommer, Hiram Sommer, Allen Bixler and L. E. Amstutz enroute to Bluffton, Ohio, to attend some special services held at Bluffton College and First Mennonite Church of that place. Near New Stark, Hancock Co., while passing a large truck, they were crowded off the pavement, resulting in rolling over into the ditch upsetting the car. Every one was more or less injured, some were taken to a doctor's office for treatment. The car was towed into Bluffton for repairs and the people were taken over by friends of Bluffton where they spent the remainder of the day visiting and attending services. By being transported there, that car also slid into the ditch but without any damage or injury to any one. The same evening while riding in another car that also was struck by an approaching car tearing loose a fender of their car. Later that night they were taken home to Kidron by a garage man, undaunted by former experiences.



KIDRON'S FIRST FEED STORE

Built in 1907

This Feed Store and Elevator was built in 1907 by Jacob P. Sommer and John J. Bixler and operated under the name of Sommer & Bixler for about 15 years, when Mr. Sommer bought Mr. Bixler's interest after which he and his son Lloyd conducted the business themselves, hiring some extra help occasionally.

On Sept. 3, 1931, the elder Mr. Sommer died, then the son continued the business for his mother who still owns the building, until in the spring of 1932 when he bought the stock and equipment, and since then the firm name is L. E. Sommer.

Lloyd was born June 6, 1905, just 31 years ago. He married Anna Amstutz, daughter of Dan B. Amstutz, on June 10, 1928. They have two children.

His experience in the feed business while in the employ of his father was a valuable asset when he took over the reins. He employs 3 men regularly and his younger sister, Esther as office girl. His pleasing personality and pleasant smile are natural traits of his character and, no doubt, are great factors in the enormous business his establishment is enjoying.

The same year, 1934, another family was visited by misfortune. Vilas, small son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wyss, after lingering from a serious illness at his home in Kidron was taken to Wooster Hospital where he passed away after severe suffering and then was taken home where funeral services were held.

Another home in Kidron which was visited by death was Mrs. D. A. Sommer, a most lovable wife and mother. This cast a gloom over the community. Mrs. Sommer was one who was always ready to serve and spread sunshine every where, with whom she came in contact. She is still sorely missed, especially by her family and also by everybody, although it is a number of years that she passed away.

Kidron has no insurance office or agency within its limits. But this can be said that the Sonnenberg Ins. Co. originated directly from this immediate community. At the time when Kidron had its start the officers or directors consisted mainly of men from this place. John Steffen Sr., deceased, was the first secretary of the Company. Nickolas Amstutz was the treasurer for a long term of years. Peter Hofstetter Sr., deceased, was one of the directors. Samuel Graber of near Mt. Eaton was another one of the officers. At that time the business was conducted mostly in the German language and as business increased and extended over larger territory, the older officers felt that they were scarcely able to carry on much longer and one by one resigned. In 1886 Mr. Steffen gave his resignation as secretary and then John L. Amstutz was elected who held the office for 45 years until 1931 when E. E. Kichhofer succeeded him and is holding the office at the present time. John L. Amstutz suddenly passed away on Jan. 5, 1932. Nickolas Amstutz held his office up to the time of his declining years when he was succeeded by John A. Moser, who is treasurer at present. John H. Tschantz held the office of president for over a quarter century to the time of his sudden departure in 1928. The same office is now held by John H. Villard of Mt. Eaton. C. C. Blosser successor to Sam Graber was a prominent officer to the time of his death. Simon R. Garver, a resident of the community for a long time but later of Orrville succeeded J. H. Tschantz as president but his term was short because his life was cut short resulting from an automobile accident. Other officers were replaced by younger men occasionally as old age came upon them. To mention all their names would take us out of the Kidron community, and so we mean to abide within our limits.

Kidron also has a Notary Public office. Col. S. C. Sprunger holds that office at the present time and is ready to wait on the public when he is at home and not engaged in other business.

We are specially indebted for the growth and interest in business of Kidron to the Kidron Auction Co. which has been conducted on the Jacob Moser propeerty on Main Street ever since it was organized. A stock holders company was organized in 1918 which conducted monthly sales for a number of years, later abandoning same on account of lack of interest,



COL. S. C. "CY" SPRUNGER

partly for other reasons. In 1923 S. C. Sprunger, then a mere youth, just started in the auction business, then took an interest in the matter and made a real go out of the Kidron Auction. For a few years only monthly sales were held, later special sales were held every three months as well as numerous special horse and cow sales and still later two regular monthly sales were held, first Monday and third Thursday of each month and since July, 1932, weekly sales were conducted regularly every Thursday.

Just recently Mr. Sprunger bought the property and grounds, where sales are being conducted, of Rev. Jacob Moser and immediately proceeded to remodel the barn and other parts of equipment. Mr. Sprunger is employing about 20 people at present, Auctioneers, clerks and other helpers. Kidron Auction has helped to increase other business in Kidron and deserves credit for helping to keep Kidron on the map. Kidron sale days often resemble the scene of a county fair with its additional business activities, such as venders of fruit and other merchandise and different kinds of agencies. "Cy" has been ably assisted by his brother Earl, who is now in Columbus where he is taking a course in veterinary in Ohio State. We will be pleased to see him back some time, taking up his father's profession.

In 1924, Dan J. Hofstetter & Sons established a slaughtering business in the east part of town where they have operated a slaughter house for 10 years. They are doing a lot of custom work in connection with supplying they own meat market.

In 1929, they erected a modern frame building for a general store and meat market where they are doing a thriving business for the last five years under the firm name, "The South Side Store." They also operate a restaurant and lunch room.

Dan, the senior member is doing trucking of livestock to Cleveland and in general is dealing in all kinds of live stock.

We don't want to forget the Kidron barber, David L. Zuercher, who had been operating a shop at Sonnenberg for many years is now located in Kidron serving his customers in the basement of the I. G. A. store.

Another industry which was very prominent for several years was that of the Kidron Horse Co., which consisted of a number of farmers and others interested in the horse industry. A modern and convenient barn was erected on the grounds now owned by Adam Amstutz, to house the horses owned by the

company. Two fine and well built horses were purchased and the business was very ably conducted by Dan H. Armstutz for many years. The results of operating same was number of good horses some of which still are in service in the community. Colt shows were annually held on the grounds, which were a credit to the men who raised them, and an inducement to better breeding and raising of horses. This was for a period of years from 1912 to about 1917 when it was discontinued, perhaps for the reason that automobiles and trucks were fast put into service.

For a long time Kidron community was without telephone service except by one telephone installed in the D. A. Sommer store which was connected with Orrville. So the farmers, residents and merchants of Kidron decided that business could not be successfully carried on without mutual telephone service.

In the year 1903 a company was organized, consisting of a number of stockholders who appointed five directors, president, secretary, treasurer, and two directors who conducted a successful business for 24 years. They met annually in January in an upper room in the building of the Kidron planing mill, to elect or re-elect officers and transact other necessary business.

The first phones were installed in 1904 when service was started on a small scale. About 30 phones were in service for some time after the switchboard was installed. Later the Co. had about 250 phones for a while until the depression came on when many disconnected. For a number of years it was operated in the D. A. Sommer store who with assistance of members of his family were the first operators. Later it was operated at other places until in the year 1921 when the company agreed to erect a building of their own, where the business has been operated to the present time. Other operators employed by the company were Charlie Villard, who for a number of years also acted as lineman. After them were Wilson and Lloyd Lehman, who were succeeded by the Jay Saltzman family, who operated for several years until 1918 when the Lloyd Hoffman family were employed for two years, after which Miss Selma Sprunger assisted by her niece Miss Gertrude Steiner operated for three years. The same time Adam Sommer and Arvine Welty were employed as linemen by the company. Later C. W. Frace and son Gerald were employed to work on the repairing of lines and other equipment. After this Gerald Gerber was on the job as lineman to the time it was sold to the Ohio Central Telephone Company. At present Central is being operated by Mrs. L. E. Amstutz, who has been assisted by members of the family and a number of other employees. Those who were employed a year or more, are Mrs. Bruce Weaver, Mrs. Noah Nussbaum, Mrs. Arnold Raber and Dora Gerber. The last mentioned has the distinction of being employed the longest period of time of any assistant operator, having been on the job for almost 8 years. Other assistant operators who have been employed are too numerous to mention so only the chief operators are being mentioned.



GARAGE & HARDWARE

Built in 1915

The main part of this building was erected as the first garage in Kidron. The choosing of this site for a building shows the keen business intellect of Mr. A. B. Sommer, the owner. At present Mr. Sommer stocks a complete line of stoves, washers, floor coverings, paints and quite a large stock of tinware and hardware, in the two-story section of this structure.

The garage part is operated by Menno Nussbaum, son of Rev. Nussbaum, now deceased. A. B. as he is familiarly known, also maintains an agency for Dodge and Plymouth cars, and sells his share of these popular cars and Dodge Trucks.

In the stove business, his success is outstanding, selling probably more stove than many stove stores in large cities that cater to the stove business only.

Mr. Sommer is married to Bertha Gerber, daughter of Levi P. Gerber, and is raising a family of three children, the oldest, Elvera, just graduated from the Dalton H. S.

In 1928, the Kidron Telephone Company sold out to the Ohio Central Telephone Corp. who are present owners and are operating in same manner. Just recently the company connected with the Postal Telegraph operating business, also employing the Kidron operators to serve the public, where messages can be sent anywhere day and night.

Kidron is also favored with good roads. You can come into Kidron from every direction on improved roads so the town is favorably connected with the outside world. While roads were in construction, this also served in giving employment to many laborers.

In regard to our roads—we are being congratulated for the good roads as well as many other improvements which this community has, and are fast coming. Credit is due to the farmers and residents of Kidron, who contribute both by labor and financing these improvements. Many farmers have worked out their dues with teams and labor, while others faithfully helped by contributing. Grading and maintaining is being done by the county.

Men who were formerly employed to do this work were Albert Amstutz and Frank Wyss, residents of this town, who performed their task well up to the time when roads were turned over to the county. The two men mentioned are also representing another industry of this community. They are owning and operating threshing machinery, which occupation they have followed for many years. They have the patronage of the greater part of this section which is due to the fact, that they have proved their efficiency at this work and fair dealings which they have had with the people. They have a large building in the east part of town on the grounds adjoining the tennis court and summer camping ground. This building is used for the housing of their machinery which is also an improvement in that line. Years ago one could go through the country and at many places see threshing machinery stand outside for months even through the winter. The same thing can be said about farmers and their care of their machinery.

Credit is also due to others who have done much toward the improvements and conveniences we are having.

Our Township Trustees, who have this part as their interest and have untiringly labored toward that end, were, Rudy Studer (deceased since 1928) who has been one of our faithful township trustees for many years up to the time of his death. John F. Amstutz living just north of Kidron, is Mr. Studer's successor and is engaged in this work at present. Mr. Amstutz also has faithfully labored with others to get things accomplished. He is representing this end of the township, while others who are in office at present are: D. R. FcAfee and M. C. Blosser of Dalton.

In the year 1922 one of the most important conveniences was added to this town. It was when Mr. A. W. Thompson of Mt. Eaton introduced electricity into this town and community. Current was gotten from Wilmot, now from Wooster. Stock

was sold to farmer residents and business people, thus forming a company of consumers who are making good use of the convenience, using it for various purposes, such as light, heat and power for operating their machinery. This was a welcome as well as a valuable addition to everybody who availed themselves of this service. Whenever, for some reason, current is failing or cut off, then the patrons realize the value and feel the inconvenience to be without it. This is one of the things the people would be the least willing to give up. Several years ago it was sold to the Wooster Electric Co. First it was operated under the name, Interurban and Electric Co. Later it was changed to the name Wooster Electric Co. and at present is operated under the name Central Ohio Light & Power Co. We are thankful to Mr. Thompson and others who have helped to give us this valuable service.

SPRING

This is one of the loveliest seasons of the year, when all nature is in its grandest appearance and beauty, when growing crops, trees and all vegetation is in its freshness, seemingly doing their part in bringing praise to God the Creator of all things.

This is the time of the year when all lovers of nature busy themselves in caring for their garden and farm crops, and in general doing cleaning and redecorating of their premises. Whether in the country, village or city, there is evidence of this spirit which goes to serve or bring good cheer to others who may be less fortunate.

At this time on Memorial Day the people of Kidron and Community are also showing their patriotism, as well as on Independence day "July 4th" and other legal holidays.

The flags that are waving from the many different homes on those days show a fine spirit of patriotism.

What our town should have is a flag pole erected on the square in connection with a traffic signal light for the safety and benefit of the public.

These emblems should not necessarily detract from the otherwise present Christian spirit of the people, but both work harmoniously together.

We as Christians should always show our loyalty to the stars and stripes, emblem of freedom without letting our religious activities slacken or suffer.

Some of this spirit is usually evident on election days when many loyal citizens turn out to cast their vote, for the right kind of candidates, in their opinion, for the various offices.

For a long time our voting place, precinct No. 1 Sugar Creek Township, was at Boones School house two miles east of Kidron, where usually the vote was not so large, but since 1930, the voting place for said precinct was right in Kidron, in the basement of the I. G. A. Store.

Since then more interest seems to be shown, by the way the voters come out to cast their ballots.

Kidron is a Democratic town and generally the results of

elections turn that way. However many of the Democrats are not so one sided, so as not to see any good in some of the candidates on the other party ticket.

In general this community is made up of people of straight forwardness and keenness in judgment in doing things which are deemed right, for the best of the community, State and Nation.

The newest enterprise for the benefit of the residents is the Kidron News, edited by Harvey Gardner, who has ventured in this undertaking since Dec. 1934 with a circulation of about 1,000 each issue. Much interest is shown in this project and the people are hoping that it is here to stay. The subscriptions are coming in right along, from several states.

People of Kidron show their interest in the newspaper business both by reading and advertising which is shown, also by the distribution of the Wooster Daily Record of which 24 copies are daily delivered, the same day it is printed, to residents in this town. Merl Sprunger was the first news boy, and after his sudden death in 1933, LaVerne Amstutz has been his successor.

We have mentioned practically all the industries of this town but will endeavor to give credit to a few who have some share in activities and improvements of the town. Andy Geib, who has been a resident of this town and community for several years is the handy man for everybody, has labored on many a job towards improvements. Mr. Geib and Henry Kirkowsky are the town's comedians and entertainers, who have amused many with their humor in their conversations. Kidron needs no movies while we have them as movie stars. Sometime they may be employed as radio broadcasters and thus gain more popularity. We don't know what position to give to Henry, but we predict that he may run for the office of Mayor of the town in the future. (Mr. Geib died in summer of 1935)

Summing up together the activities and conditions. Kidron consists of fifteen business places, thirty-three residences, one two room school building and one place of worship and religious service, and one hundred and thirty-two inhabitants.

Names of business places: South Side Store, Hofstetter Bros. Props.; Kidron Auction Co., S. C. Sprunger, owner and manager; E. P. Gerber, Hardware, Planing and Saw Mill; L. E. Sommer Warehouse and Mill; Wm. Nussbaum, Feed and Flour Mill; Kidron Cheese Co., Fred Grosson, manager; A. B. Sommer Store and Service Station and Menno Nussbaum Garage; Superior Garage, Saurer and Badertscher, prop.; I. G. A. Store, Sommer and Gerber Props.; Kidron Hatchery, operated by Malva Kauffman; Blacksmith shop operated by E. R. Saurer; Miller's Lunch Room, operated by Warren Miller; Hofstetter Slaughter House, operated by Dan J. Hofstetter; Kidron Telephone Co., owned by Ohio Central Telephone Corporation, operated by L. E. Amstutz family. (1935)



KIDRON RESTAURANT

Built in 1923

This building was erected in the fall of 1923 by Harvey Gardner, for a grocery and creamery. In the spring of 1925 he sold it to Rev. Adam Sommer who operated it as a general store for about eight years and then sold it to Willis Sommer and Elam Gerber the owners of the I. G. A. Store, who conducted a restaurant for a short time, then sold the business to Warren Miller and Mr. Amstutz. They in turn sold it to Paul Gerber in the early spring of 1936.

Mr. Gerber is the son of David Gerber, now deceased, who moved to Akron, Ohio about 30 years ago. Paul is a capable business man and conducts his restaurant business in a clean, up to date manner. As proof of this one need only watch the many customers going into his place of business on Auction Days. A cool bubbling fountain at the front of the building is an added attraction on hot summer days.

In regard to school activities, Kidron always was quite popular in respect to giving school programs and entertainments.

The place formerly known as the Byall school, named in honor of a farmer who lived on the place where C. A. Nussbaum now lives, just north of Kidron, was a handsome frame building where some of the older and middle aged residents of Kidron received their early training and education. Byall school was always noted for its entertainments and often people had to be turned away on account of lack of room.

Several of Kidron's residents and merchants got their education at Boone's school, two miles east of Kidron. Naturally, these two school districts are very closely connected in various activities such as ball games and other things.

The former Byall school house was destroyed by fire in Dec., 1899. Wesley Zaugg having taught the school for four successive years with good success, was the teacher at that time, and especially had the spirit of entertaining, and was able to produce some of the best talent for entertainments. Unfortunately on account of the destruction of the school building at that time, no entertainment could be given at the close of that term of school. The school term was finished in the summer house on the P. C. Amstutz farm near Kidron now owned and occupied by the Christ A. Nussbaum family.

In the summer of 1900, a new frame building was erected, and completed just in time to start the new school term. A dedication service was given a few days before school opened and was sponsored mainly by people of the school district. Since the former house was located one half mile north of Kidron, it was decided to build the new one nearer town, also more in the center of the district and it is now just at the north end of Kidron.

J. E. Amstutz was the first teacher in the new school house. As the population of the town increased it became necessary to build an addition to that building. From then on two teachers were employed, with an enrollment of about 60 pupils in both rooms and the number increased from year to year.

In the early morning of Feb. 22, 1917, before daylight the alarming report was heard over the telephone and otherwise that the school house was burning. A large number of people came out to make efforts to save it, but without success. School children also appeared on the scene, and were saddened to find their possessions in ashes. Immediate plans were made to provide for a place to finish the school term. The school board decided to build a temporary structure for the purpose until a new school house could be built. Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Hofstetter were the teachers at that time and completed their term in the temporary building.

In the fall of the same year school was started in the same rooms, taught by Milton Tschantz and Irene Hogsett. The new two-room brick building was completed in December of that year in which the school has had its sessions up to the present time.

About two years ago, electric lights were installed, mainly from the efforts and proceeds of entertainments which are quite frequently given by the pupils and occasionally assisted by outside talent. Special musical programs, both instrumental and vocal were occasionally given by certain directors, which also goes to show how pupils of Kidron are developing their talents in various ways.

Quite frequently the place serves for holding political meetings, as well as other instructive meetings of various kinds, which as a rule are conducted with considerable enthusiasm.

Persons coming out of Kidron school either as teachers or pupils are reported as follows:

Rev. C. N. Amstutz, a life-long farmer and for over thirty years a minister of the Sonnenberg Church. He was a diligent scholar and has made good use of his education and training.

Rev. J. E. Amstutz, who taught several terms of school in Kidron, later entered the ministry and has been pastor of the Trenton, O., Mennonite Church since 1921. Still another is Rev. M. S. Amstutz, for several years a school teacher and now a minister in the Missionary Alliance Church, located at Wyandotte, Mich.

Milton Tschantz a former teacher in Kidron is now instructor and coach in the High School at Greenwich, Ohio. Milton Badertscher a former pupil of Kidron school is employed in the Sebring High School. Mrs. D. A. Moser, a pupil and teacher of Kidron, is now with her husband engaged in business at Massillon, Ohio.

Valentine Gerber, who was a school teacher in his younger years and for many years a member of the board of education of Sugar Creek Twp., and for the greater part of his life a carpenter and contractor, was also a resident of Kidron for many years. His children were educated in Kidron and some of them are engaged in business of their own. Allen and Wilson are graduate architects, Merl, a teacher in Junior High School at Rittman, Effie and Ora employed in banks, and Emma the faithful housekeeper for her father at their home in Dalton.

The Jacob J. Lehman family also branched out extensively. Otto has held the office as County Recorder for two terms, Floyd, a former teacher in this township, is now employed in Cleveland. Merl is quite an artist and has done much sign painting over the country. Their six sisters are all making themselves useful, some as teachers, some doing office work or house work.

J. W. Moser of Dalton, a former Kidron boy, is now president of the Board of Education of Sugar Creek Township. He is also architect and contractor, having done much construction work in Kidron.

Harvey R. Sprunger, for many years the faithful stand-by for E. P. Gerber in all his lines of business is also a member of the school board.

Simon Sommer, a former teacher and resident of Kidron, is now pastor of a Mennonite Church in Holmes County near

Millersburg.

Calvin Hofstetter, who was both a pupil and teacher in Kidron, is now farming and teaching in Stark County, near Massillon, Ohio.

Magdalene Fankhauser, now Mrs. William Geiger, a former teacher here, is now located in Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, where her husband has a prominent position as instructor.

Adrian Amstutz a Kidron pupil and graduate of Mt. Eaton High School was employed as teacher in the Burbank school for four years and is now hired to teach at Kidron for the coming year.

Another of the different vocations of life chosen by pupils of Kidron is that of nursing. Five young ladies are registered nurses, namely: Alma Sommer, Florence Badertscher Amstutz, Lillian Lehman Potts, Edna Sprunger and Ruth Amstutz. Three of them are actively engaged in their profession and the other two have become housekeepers since their marriage.

Zena Sommer is engaged in missionary work in Chicago, and Hulda Badertscher is in the Jewish Mission of Cleveland.

Ivan Badertscher is employed at Lincoln Hall, Bluffton College. Llewellyn is employed as electrician at Berne, Indiana.

Not all can be mentioned, but scores or perhaps hundreds who have chosen farming and are now engaged in that occupation are to be congratulated and since this was also our occupation until recently we are inclined to envy them in their position.

For the benefit of the younger generation and others who have never known the members of the first family of Kidron, we will now introduce them to you.

THE TSCHANTZ FAMILY

The parents, Christian and Mary Tschantz, with their little flock, located here nearly fifty years ago as an ambitious group. They started in business in cooperation with farmers and operated the first industry of Kidron, namely the Kidron Cheese Co. Little knowing or realizing that this was a start for more business, they made rapid progress, as has been mentioned before. Mr. Tschantz also being post master of Kidron, he also conducted the first store here in the building now occupied by the Kidron Hatchery. Their first residence is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Warren Miller.

The family consisted of the parents and the following children, some of whom were born in Kidron: Lena, Ellen, Louisa, Emma, Albert, Walter and Elmer. They were well trained children, being prepared to enter life's responsibilities. They were prominent and active members of St. Paul's Reformed Church at Mt. Eaton, Ohio.

In business activities the children very ably assisted their parents first with work about the cheese factory, later in the Post Office and store, in which capacity they proved themselves loyal and were held in respect by all in all activities.

This family also had their big share of bitterness and sorrow of this world. Death entered their home here in Kidron at different times. The first one claimed was little Walter, a



SOMMER & GERBER

I. G. A. Store

Erected in 1930

The birth of the above business spent its infancy in the small building to the rear of this magnificent building. This noble structure would do ample justice to house any city business.

The partners in this store are Willis Sommer, son of D. A. Sommer who owned and operated the store in the small building, and Elam Gerber, son of Joel P. Gerber who lives several miles northeast of Kidron on the old Gerber homestead.

Willis is married to Delphine Lehman, daughter of Christian Lehman now deceased. They have two children, Blake and Joanna. For his vacation, Willis takes his family into the wilds of Canada where the fish are really "fish", as he delights in landing big ones. The pictures he brings back are proof that he is often successful in landing big ones.

Elam the other partner, is also married. His wife is Anna Amstutz, daughter of Dan S. Amstutz. They, too are raising a family—three boys, Kenneth, Stanly, and Owen. Elam is building a new home this summer, which will, no doubt, take all his spare time for this season.

The success of the partnership, Sommer & Gerber, has been proven by the large volume of business that is conducted through their store. As a community asset, they rank among the highest.

babe about a year old. Not many years later Emma, aged about twelve, was called, adding more grief to the already downcast family, for both were very lovable children. Several years later after a lingering illness, Louisa was called at the age of about seventeen.

The other children all grew to maturity. In school activities they all proved themselves very efficient, especially talented in singing and speaking thus proving themselves valuable in school entertainments.

Lena became the wife of the Hon. Wesley H. Zaugg, former teacher of our school and otherwise engaged in business, prominent in politics, being a staunch Democrat. Mr. Zaugg was deputy probate judge, Post Master of Wooster, and for many years was president of the Commercial Bank of Wooster. Lena could prove herself an able assistant in those various activities of her husband as well as in the work of the Reformed Church of Wooster of which they were active members.

The people of this community always had a live interest in the developments of the Tschantz family where ever they settled. Ellen and Albert were also married and settled in Alliance, Ohio, formerly associated in business with their father and presumably now engaged in business of their own. Elmer was never married and died as a bright young man at Alliance.

Mrs. Tschantz, the mother of the family, passed away at Alliance after suffering from a prolonged and serious illness. Mr. Tschantz lived his last days in the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. H. Zaugg at Wooster, where a large number from this community gathered to show him their last tribute of respect at his funeral services. Here ends the history of the originator and first resident of our town, Kidron.

As before mentioned, Mr. D. A. Sommer became successor in business to Mr. Tschantz. Being assisted by his entire family, his wife as long as her health permitted, was a prominent figure in the store. Alvin, Carrie and Willis, all quite young when they came to Kidron, grew up, were educated in the school at Kidron, and are now engaged in business of their own.

Alvin, who operated a garage for a number of years, has now leased it to Menno Nussbaum, also a pupil of Kidron school. Alvin is other wise engaged in business, being salesman of cars in connection with his service station and store.

Carrie is the wife of Lloyd Hoffman, also a student of Kidron. They own and operate a general electric store at Orrville.

Willis, who has been associated with his father in business for many years, has since 1930 operated a general store at the square, known as the I. G. A. Store. He is in partnership with Elam Gerber.

Another of the early residents of this town was the Jacob Sommer family. Lloyd, the only son, is proprietor of the first warehouse and grain elevator in Kidron.

Ellen, who was her father's bookkeeper, is now the wife of Allen Bixler, who is employed by Lloyd Sommer in the same business.

Irene has also been bookkeeper at the same place, but since her marriage to Benny Amstutz was succeeded by her sister, Esther, who holds that position at present.

Alma is a registered nurse and Rose is engaged in housework. They all live in and near Kidron.

Levi Lehman, who has been employed for a number of years, at the same place, has made good use of his education and training, is also a product of Kidron school.

The children of E. P. Gerber have practically all made use of their education by assisting their father in his business. Dora has been telephone operator at the Kidron exchange for about eight years. Edwin and Orren are employed in the store and lumber business. This family also had seemingly more than their share of sorrow.

In the early years of his business, they lost their oldest boy, Delvin, through death. A few years later his wife was taken by death, leaving him with several small children. With his second wife they shared the grief of the loss of two small sons only a few years apart, namely Wayne and Clayton. Just recently their youngest son, Glenford, was seriously injured in an automobile accident. After treatment in the hospital, he fully recovered to his former health. He too takes an interest in business affairs and may some time be a valuable assistant to his Company.

In the making of any history it may not interest everybody to read certain items, but we will endeavor to make mention of those who were and are most actively engaged in business enterprises and school activities.

Another family who has been very active in this community for almost a half century is the William H. Lehman family. Mr. Lehman being a life long farmer, is also engaged in other things. He has been associated with the Kidron Cheese Co. as their Secretary and Treasurer and the handling of cream and eggs for said company. He also is weather observer, being able to give exact reports and measurements of rain, thus giving valuable service to the community. His children were all educated in the Kidron school, and are now all engaged in farming, except Levi the youngest who is employed in the L. E. Sommer Warehouse and Milling business. This family also had much sorrow in their lives. Several children were called by death, some in their infancy and three daughters who were grown up to womanhood. Last of all the mother of the family was called from the home. Mr. Lehman is married again living in a neat little bungalow in the west part of town.

Another active group was the Jacob J. Nussbaum family. Mr. Nussbaum was a lifelong farmer first in the State of Indiana and since 1902 in this state. He has long been engaged in the work as teamster which appealed to him, while his family did the farm work. He was often assisted by his sons, in this work especially in hauling logs at which his son Mennas lost his life which occurred here in Kidron, in December, 1919. He was caught by a rolling log almost crushing him. He suffered

terribly until death relieved him the following night. Both the parents were called by death several years ago, only a few years apart. The sons were engaged as carpenters for many years. For a while six of them together formed a carpenter garg, doing much work in this community. Since then some of them are living on farms. Albert and Noah are still at the same trade, while Louis has been employed steadily by S. C. Sprunger at the Kidron Auction sale barn and grounds. The family was living near Kidron for many years on the farm which was recently sold to S. C. Sprunger, formerly known as the Peter Saurer farm.

The Saurers were a large family which branched out in many different occupations. Mr. Saurer was a dealer in livestock most of his life which ended in the year 1904. Most of his children were and are farmers. Many of his sons followed his occupation and are still engaged in dealing in livestock.

The Simon Saurer family who lived just west from the P. Saurer farm, also branched out extensively. Some of the sons were school teachers, two of them, Philip and Emanuel, having taught at Kidron or the former Byall school. Albert is a hardware merchant at New Philadelphia. The others were mostly farmers, some at times engaged in threshing. Fanny, the wife of C. Hoffman, remained on the farm where they raised a family of two boys, Lloyd and Glenn. The former also farmed the same place for several years, later moved to Orrville where they were all engaged in other business. The farm was then sold to Simon Hofstetter, who with his family is successfully operating the same at the present time. The children were all students of Kidron school.

The David Nussbaum family is next door to the former, living at the west township line. Their children are engaged as follows: Glenn is operating a milk route for the Orrville Milk Condensery. He also is conducting a coal business, delivering to residents of Kidron and rural community. He is assisted by his brother Ivan who operates his trucks in his various lines of business. Glenn is also engaged in auctioneering, with a good practice over a large territory. Orran is living on a small farm west of Kidron and is employed at the Kidron auction on sale days. Ellen, Mrs. Henry Nickles, is living on a farm near East Union.

The Jacob Amstutz family consisting of six daughters, who were pupils of Kidron or Byall school, are well scattered out. Mary, wife of A. J. Welty, lives on a farm near Applecreek. Lydia, wife of Simon Moser, lived in this school district for many years, where their children went to school and later moved on a farm at Silver Hill, and now live in Orrville. Some of their children are farming, some are in business at Akron, one in Cleveland and some in Orrville. Amelia, wife of Rudy Badertscher, located on a farm west of the home farm, where they raised a family of eight children all grown up and active in various ways. She died about six months ago. Rosa, wife of N. L. Sprunger, with her family is living on a farm near Wadsworth. Leah, who came into possession of the home



SOUTH SIDE STORE

Opened for Business Dec. 17, 1929

When Earl D. and Dennis L., sons of Dan J. Hofstetter, reached young manhood, their father was in the wholesale meat business. The father and the sons, keen observers of business trends, saw the possibility of another business in the steady growth of Kidron, and erected this modern store building.

Helping the sons, like any good father should, they stocked this store with a complete stock of new merchandise and equipped a complete meat market where fresh and cured meats could be bought for the first time in Kidron, every day in the week.

Earl, the older of the brothers is married and has a family of two boys and one girl and lives in a new house just west of the store. Dennis, the younger of the two, is not married, but unlike some young men who live only in the present, he is farsighted enough to lay up treasures that may in the future be more valuable.

farm, was the wife of Rudy Studer, who died suddenly several years ago. Their children were educated in the Kidron school and later entered higher institutions and are now making good in various occupations. Clair is associated with the Hoover Sweeper Co. at North Canton, Walter is a dentist at Crestline, Irvin is employed at Huntington, W. Va. and Mabel, only daughter in the family is the only farmer, assisting her mother and their able hired man Lester Geiser. Mabel has been teaching school for several years.

A tract of land extending a mile west from Kidron main street, consisting of 320 acres, was owned by three brothers who divided the land into three equal parts. They were Jacob, Jonas and Christian Amstutz all deceased. Jacob, who was mentioned before, owned the west end, Jonas had the central part, which was owned and occupied by members of the family up to the year 1923.

Manasse Steiner, who was married to Maryann, oldest daughter of Jonas, owned and occupied this farm from 1886 to 1923, a period of thirty-seven years. They had two daughters, one died in childhood and Barbara, who grew up and was educated in the Kidron school, is now with her father living in Dalton. The mother died in 1923 shortly after the family moved from the farm to town. The farm is now owned and occupied by the Amos A. Nussbaum family, whose children were all pupils of Kidron school. Elma, oldest daughter married to Reuben Bixler, lives on a farm. The others are all at home.

Chr. Amstutz, who owned the east end which was later owned and occupied by his son Joel J. Amstutz, who had one daughter Ruth. She was also a pupil of Kidron school and died at the age of eleven leaving the parents childless. The farm was then sold to William Lehman, who lived there about 25 years, and now is occupied by his son Sylvester and family. Part of this farm is now a part of Kidron, some of which is the Kidron Auction Grounds, some is occupied by other business and residences.

Christian had a family of eight children who all grew up in this community on the farm now occupied by C. A. Nussbaum. The children all scattered out to different states, one in Michigan, some in Oklahoma, one in Oregon. Their names were: Anna, Judith, John, Joe, Leah, Magdalena, Daniel and Peter C. John formerly lived in this district just north of Jericho. Peter bought the home farm just north of Kidron where he lived for many years, but now lives in Orrville. He is the only one living of the family.

Of the Jonas Amstutz family, two are living in this school district, namely, David G. and his sister Lena who live together one half mile north of Kidron.

Another of the pioneers of Kidron was Nicholas Amstutz, who owner and occupied the quarter section of land southeast, some of which is now a part of Kidron. He was a successful farmer, also active in other things, having operated a cheese factory on his farm, prior to its being started at Kidron about fifty years ago. He was also a member of the school board of

this district for a number of years. He always took an active interest in educational work. They had a family of four children, namely Cleophas, Moses, Noah and Lydia, the latter three having died in childhood. Cleophas, the only one surviving, is still living on the same farm. Although he retired several years ago he often assisted with the farm work to the time when his health failed him. For over thirty years he was minister of the Sonnenberg Church, which has a membership of over four hundred members. His family consists of six daughters, Edna, Mrs. Dan Nussbaum, Sara, Mrs. Albert Nussbaum, Lydia, Mrs. Jacob Neuenschwander on the home farm, Lavina, Mrs. Amos Neuenschwander, on a farm at Berne, Indiana, Elda, Mrs. Martin Lehman and Martha.

Cleophas, his children and many of his grandchildren were pupils of Kidron school. The farm is now operated by Jacob Neuenschwander, who is also Rev. Amstutz's successor in the ministry of the same church.

It may be of interest to many, especially those who remember the stone quarry located on this farm where many got material to build cellars, foundations for many houses and barns over a large territory. The younger generation might snicker or shirk from such labor as was required to obtain the materials from said quarry. Nevertheless it is interesting to look at the structures which were built of the sand stone for which it took hard labor first to dig them out, then the hauling and dressing and finally the laying up of the big and strong walls of cellars and barns. Now such construction work is mostly done with concrete or building tile block.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN AMSTUTZ

These are the grandparents of Mr. L. E. Amstutz, the author of these historical sketches of Kidron and Sonnenberg.

The following history consists of five generations who lived in the Kidron School District. The subject of which is John Amstutz and his wife Catherine Weltz Amstutz who with their family, (known as the Switzer Stutz family) emigrated to this country in 1871, and settled down in this community. The family consists of the parents, five sons and one daughter. The sons were John L., Abraham, Daniel H., Benjamin and

Jacob and their sister Mary Ann. The boys were all separated and placed in different homes with farmers where they served till one by one they got married and established homes of their own. The sister stayed with the parents in the home.

They were all musically inclined, being trained that way in their childhood in the old country, which trait was being inherited from generation to generation. They were soon known as the singing family, or the Singer Stutz's. They were often called to sing at school entertainments and in later years at other gatherings, often at funerals, weddings and farmers' institutes.

They were all industrious and chose farming and dairying as their occupation which was also theirs in Switzerland. Their chief delight was dealing with good horses and cows and perhaps often singing to the business. It could be truly said of them, as they used to sing in one of their favorite songs, "Sic sy gaeng lusting spaet und fruch, un hei die schoenste schwarze cheuh." Translated to the English means "They are always jolly late and early, They have the necest black cows."

They had frequent family gatherings, and as their families grew in number they could represent good sized reunions. Such reunions were often held as long as all the brothers lived, but as one by one passed away their joy decreased but with renewed pep and interest they kept on as long as there was more than one. Jacob is the only one living of the once happy group. We miss them sorely but their memory still lingers with those of us who knew them.



CHILDREN OF JOHN AMSTUTZ

John L., the father, uncles and aunt of L. E. Amstutz, the author of this history.

John was known for his various activities, Abe for his tactful humor, Dan was perhaps foremost as leader in their singing, Ben was perhaps the most hilarious or jolly one, Jake as an all around congenial fellow, and Mary Ann was the song bird of the family.

It brings sadness to those of us who were closely connected with them by relations and otherwise, when we think of the times when we were permitted to listen to the favorite songs they used to sing, such as the following: "Greuss di Gott du

greune weid," and "Es gibt wohl kein leben wie des keuhers so shoen," and best of all yet, was "Hoert ihrs von den Bergen klingen" which seemed to take us, the younger generation back among the mountains of Switzerland, native land of our fathers.

We feel like concluding with the song, which we all love, "Faith of our Fathers holy faith, We will be true to thee till death," which shall hold true with all their good principles. The most valued and appreciated is the Christian influence and training which they left to us as the younger generation. Of them can be said they were industrious, religious, musical and were interested in education, all together should serve to lead us to nobler action and should make us endeavor to prove to the world that we are not falling short in activities but rather with the opportunities we have should make ourselves even more useful than they.

John Amstutz, Sr.

The subject of the foregoing was a resident of this school district, living in a tenant house at the west end of the Dan H. Amstutz farm. The boys all went to Byall, now Kidron School in the winter, in order to learn the American language and to prepare them for the future life.

Dan bought the farm where he lived the rest of his life. He was known as a successful dairyman and was perhaps the champion breeder and raiser of Holstein cattle of this community. He raised a family of six children on said farm. They were Benjamin, Katie, Adam, Dinah, Fanny and Ida. They were all educated in this school district.

Benjamin, was tenant on the home farm for several years, later lived on the tenant farm adjoining, from where his children went to school in the same district. These children are employed in Canton living together in a home since the death of their parents. Russell, the oldest son with his family, living on a farm near Wooster.

Katie, Mrs. Dan Hofstetter lived on a farm near Kidron where their children also went to school. Alvin, oldest son is the butcher for the firm of Hofstetter & Sons at their plant at the east end of Kidron. Earl and Dennis are proprietors of the South Side Store. Earl's children are going to the Kidron school which makes the fifth generation in the same school district. Viola, Mrs. M. Conrad lives on a farm north of Orrville. Lorene, Mrs. Lalan Swartz, lives in Orrville. Dennis and Eunice are at home with the parents in Kidron. Viola, Lorene and Eunice were all assistant telephone operators at the Kidron Exchange. Lorene and Eunice are chief waiters at the South Side Restaurant.

Adam Amstutz who with his family lives in Kidron has been in the trucking business for about twenty years. His children attended Kidron school some graduated at Dalton High school. Helen, Mrs. Scheufler, lives in Orrville. Irene, former telephone operator at Kidron later at Orrville, is with her husband Wm. Lenz, living in Orrville. Leona "Stutz" is employed by the Kidron Auction Co. as secretary. Donald, "Tiny" is also employed by the Kidron Auction Co. on sale days, otherwise

works as carpenter. Florence, wife of Warren Miller, is assisting her husband in the lunch room. Lewis is employed in Miller's Lunch Room here in Kidron. Norman "Jiggs" is assistant truck driver for his dad. Frieda, Mary Lou and Doris are at home and going to school.

Dinah, third daughter of Dan H. is with her husband, Andrew Hofstetter living in Wooster where he is employed. Their only daughter Ruth is married and living at West Salem, O.

Fanny, wife of Simon Gerber, lives on the home farm, from where their children went to Kidron school. Victor, who graduated at Dalton High school, Student of Bluffton College is now employed as teacher of music both vocal and instrumental in the Dalton school, also in the country schools and individual pupils in homes. Corrine, former music teacher and church organist, is now living at Reedley, California. She is married to Arthur Krehbrel of that place.

Murray graduated from Dalton High school last spring and this summer assisted with the farm work at home. In addition he also uses his talents as musician. He was recently successful winner in amateur contests in radio auditions. He, with Elvera Sommer of Kidron, is scheduled to perform on Major Bowes Amateur program in the near future.

Richard, the youngest is at home and attending Kidron school.

Ida Amstutz Stauffer, wife of Noah Stauffer, is with her family living in Ft. Wayne, Ind. They have a family of three boys, some of them are employed in Ft. Wayne. Their names are, George, Earl and Junior.

The part of Amstutz history just started originates back about seven or eight generations. There were seven generations of John Amstutz, two of which are living at the present time.

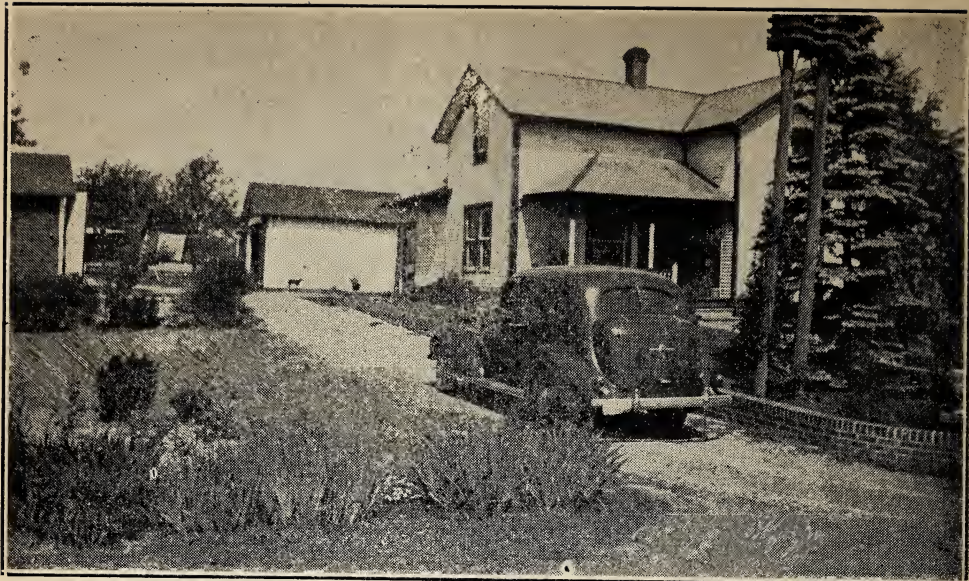
The subject of this history was the fourth generation, before that we have no other record.

John Amstutz, IV., passed away January, 1899, aged 75 years, and his wife died December, 1902, aged 80. Their oldest son was John L., fifth generation, who was a resident of near Kidron ever since he came to this country. He was employed by several farmers, one of which was John Baumgartner, who was to him like a father. They lived on a farm south east of Kidron from where he went to school. Later John L. bought that farm where he lived almost forty years. He was otherwise actively engaged in the following:

He was secretary of the Sonnenberg Insurance Association for forty-five years. He was also active in church, holding various offices, loved music and traveling. He died suddenly Jan. 5, 1932.

The farm where he spent most of his time was sold to C. N. Amstutz and was occupied by the following families: Chr. A. Nussbaum, Sam Graber, John Steiner and at present is owned and occupied by Albert A. Nussbaum whose children are attending Kidron school.

John L. had a family of seven children who all were pupils



THE SPRUNGER HOME

Sometime during the year of 1922 Dr. C. R. Sprunger, then living on a beautiful farm at the extreme west end of this settlement, bought this home where he intended to move in the following spring. The two beautiful spruce trees in this picture, I think, were planted by the elder Sprunger who had a keen desire to beautify his home. Today they stand as monuments to his memory.

On March 23, 1922, Dr. Sprunger had his farm sale which also included a large herd of Registered Holstein Cattle, and the following day March 24th he died, consequently he never had the privilege to live in this beautiful home.

Doc. as everybody called him, raised a noble family of nine children, six sons and three daughters, as follows: Harvey, Clyde, Silas, William, Roy and Earl are the sons. Emma, Pearl and Edna are the daughters. Space forbids to outline the lives of all of these worthy children—each one reflecting many of the traits of a noble parentage.

It is to the third son, Silas or "Cy" as he is better known, that Kidron owes much of its growth and development. Many young men have the erroneous idea that success lies far away from their native home, when right at their very door step are "acres of diamonds". The writer admires "Cy" for developing the talents with which the Creator endowed him and seeing in this fertile nativity, his own community, these "acres of diamonds." Though they were yet in the rough, his ingenuity is shaping them into beautiful gems of worthy achievements.

Mr. Sprunger is building a new home at the north end of town and according to announcement will soon take unto himself a helpmate. In behalf of Kidron and the community the writer extends the Hardest Congratulatory and best wishes toward a long, happy and prosperous life.

—Harvey Gardner, Publisher.



KIDRON AUCTION BARN

It is here that the anniversary of the Second Millionth Dollar Sale is held on June 18, 1936.

of Kidron school.

Henry, the oldest, was a farmer for many years, later was employed in Kidron and Orrville. At present he is employed by the county, doing road work. His family is as follows:

1. Lizzie, only daughter, attended Kidron school, later was employed as telephone operator in Kidron and doing house work for several families. She married Earl A. Steiner of Orrville. They live on a farm east of Marshallville, Ohio, and have seven children.

2. Irvin, also a pupil of Kidron school, later attended Orrville High School, then was employed by Joseph Pecilsten for 12 years and at present is salesman for the Fuller Brush Co. They live near Riceland.

3. Harrold, student of Orrville High School.

4. Lester, student of Orrville High School.

Frank is a resident of Berne, Indiana since 1900, where he has been engaged in various business and now is employed by the Dunbar Furniture Co. They had a family of six children most of them grauated from Berne High School.

1. Dessie, Mrs. Harold Imhoff, Carloch, Ill.

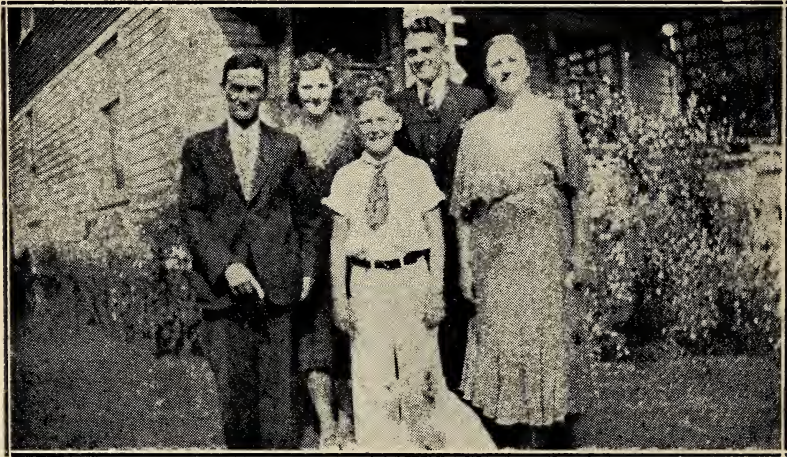
2. Lucille, Mrs. Henry Gilliom, Berne, Ind.

3. Ralph Amstutz, mechanic, Berne, Ind.

4. Agnes, Mrs. Gordon Braecker, Berne, Ind.

5. Anna Marie, at home with parents.

6. Arthur Warren, killed in automobile accident at the age of seven.



L. E. AMSTUTZ AND FAMILY

It is through the painstaking effort and patience of Mr. Amstutz that these chronicals were made possible. Had Mr. Amstutz known at the time that these News installments would ever be printed in book form, he no doubt, would have made many changes, but all in all, this is a very good record of events that helped and influenced the building up of Kidron and community.

To Mrs. Amstutz is due the honor of writing the news of this village

and community in about a half dozen newspapers, besides the Kidron News. Her work is greatly appreciated by all who read her items. Many of her writings will be preserved and remembered for many years to come.

Levi E., a resident of Kidron community most of his life, was tenant on the home farm four years, later on a farm east of Kidron. Lived at Berne, Indiana, a few years. At present assistant telephone operator and employed at Kidron Auction and other jobs. Children were also pupils of Kidron schools:

1. Adrian H., graduate of Mt. Eaton High School, student of Buffton and Ashland College, attended O. S. U., taught school in this county for seven years and at present is teaching in Kidron.

2. Ruth, graduate of Dalton High School and Massillon City Hospital, is working at her profession most of the time.

3. John Lyman, born June 9, 1916, died as an infant.

4. LaVerne, Junior in High School, is at present employed in Chicago.

John E., 6th generation, fourth son of John L., as a pupil of Kidron, student of Dalton High School, teacher of Kidron school for several terms, also other schools in this township, student and instructor in Bluffton College, attended Miami University of Oxford, O. He has been pastor of a Mennonite Church at Halstead, Kansas, for ten years and now has charge of the Trenton, Ohio, Mennonite Church since 1921. His children were all educated in Trenton and were all College graduates:

1. Bernice is employed in W. Va.

2. Kenneth was professor in Chemistry. He died at the age of twenty-four.

3. Maurine graduated from Western Reserve University and is now working in a Library at Cleveland.

4. John Howard, 7th generation, is at home with his parents, suffering from a heart ailment.

Susan, married to Cornelius Sprunger, was, with her family living on a farm north of Kidron for fifteen years, later moved to Orrville, where Mr. Sprunger is employed by the Ohio Wood Preserving Co. Their sons, Leland and Lauren are employed in Chicago. James is employed at the Willburt Co. at Orrville. Vera is employed in Wooster. Carl and Barbara Ann at home.

Martha, Mrs. A. W. Sommer, is with her family, living at the east end of Kidron. They formerly lived on a farm in Sonnenberg, spent two years in Chicago, where Mr. Sommer received his training for religious work. He was pastor of Salem Church several years, and later for the Kidron Gospel Tabernacle congregation which position he holds at the present time. He is also operating a small dairy, supplying residents of Kidron with milk. Their children consisting of three daughters Zena, Vesta and Lillian all were pupils of Kidron school. Zena is now engaged in work at Chicago, Vesta senior in Dalton High School and Lillian in the Kidron school.

Hulda, who owns the Amstutz homestead, is living there with the A. W. Sommer family. She graduated from the grade schools, was housekeeper for her father after the mother's death in 1915. Later she was clerk in the Sunshine Grocery which was conducted by A. W. Sommer.

Fifth Generation

Abe was formerly a resident of Kidron where most of his children were educated. He was a successful farmer and made good wherever he settled. He lived near Orrville many years, later moved back to this community where he died.

Sixth Generation

Ida, oldest daughter, married to Fred Badertscher located on a farm east of Kidron from where their children also went to Kidron School. At present they live on a farm three miles N. E. of Kidron. Their daughter, Elma, Mrs. Calvin Moser lives on a farm near Dalton.

Amos is instructor in some institution in Maryland.

Monroe is proprietor of a store in Layland, Coshocton County.

Edwin is a M. D. in Columbus.

Paul is engaged in teaching school.

Mollie and Mildred, both graduate nurses, are married and live in or near Columbus.

Sixth Generation

Edwin and Bertha both died in the prime of life, from a prolonged illness.

Reuben, who was employed at a Bible Institute farm near Pittsburgh, Pa., where he was fatally burned from a heater in his room about eighteen months ago.

Callie and Esther operate a small farm, two miles north of Kidron.

Menno, who has been teacher in this township and other places attended college several places, later entered the ministry, has been pastor of several congregations and at present is located at Wyandotte, Michigan. They have a family of six children who are also active in either school work or other important work.

Mollie, a pupil of Kidron school, later taught school, was also music teacher for which she was especially talented. But her career was short as she was forced to resign her various activities due to a prolonged illness which ended her life when only in her teens.

David N. was a pupil and later a resident of near Kidron from where his children went to school. Later they moved to Orrville, from where he is operating several milk routes for the Orrville Milk Condensory. His children were educated in Orrville High School, some are engaged in educational or religious work.

Elmer A., former resident of near Kidron where his children also attended school, is now living in Akron, O., where he is employed by Akron Pure Milk Co. His children are also employed in Akron.

Although they did not all live in the Kidron community,

this history would not be complete by stopping at this point.

Ben, one of the five brothers, settled down about three miles northeast of Kidron, where he raised his family of six children, who were educated in Boones School two miles east of Kidron. He owned and operated two farms and for many years operated a cheese factory which was conducted by his son Amos until the time when it was discontinued. He was successful in every respect, being able to supply each of his living children with a farm in the same neighborhood, which is now known as Benville. The names of the children are:

1. Dan B. who is living on farm near by. His children are Clayton, also living in Benville, employed by George Gerber in the slaughtering business; Clarence, better known as Jim, is serving this community as electrician, having done much of that kind of work in Kidron; Anna, wife of Lloyd Sommer, is living in Kidron, where Mr. Sommer is in the feed and grain business. Pauline, wife of Seth Miller, lives in Brewster. Leona, for several years school teacher, is now Mrs. Hostetler, living at Smithville. Emma, Ella and Arlene, the famous Amstutz sister trio, are well known for their broadcasting of sacred singing. Luane and Mary Jeanne are at home with the parents. This family had three marriages in their home this year. Ella, married to Milton Rohrer of Orrville; Leona to Ralph Hostetler of Smithville and Emma to Ralph Gonter of Dalton.

2. Sarah, Mrs. Joel Gerber, lived on the home farm, in the heart of Benville, where she died several years ago. Her children are George Gerber living in the home. He is associated with the Massillon Provision Co. Verna, wife of Clinton Sprunger, is with her family living in a nice new home on North Main St. of Benville. Mr. Sprunger is a farmer and school teacher.

3. Anna, Mrs. D. D. Hofstetter lives on the other home farm with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Gerber. Mr. Hofstetter is a painter by trade. Their son Elmer, is at home occasionally when he is not employed otherwise.

4. Amos Amstutz is operating a farm adjoining the Colony. His children are Velma, Mrs. Amos D. Amstutz, living on a farm northwest of Kidron. Benny, farmer at Kidron, also employed at Sommer's warehouse. Evan is teaching school, was formerly business partner with Warren Miller in the restaurant. Evelyn, wife of Harvey Nussbaum, is living south of Kidron. Mr. N. is employed at the Kidron Flour Mill. Sylvia is married to Victor Amstutz, son of Rev. Louis Amstutz, and are at home with the parents. Mildred and Edith are at home.

5. Pauline, Mrs. Philip Gerber, live in the west part of Benville. They have four daughters, Luella, wife of Lester Lehman; Elma, Rhoda and Annie who constitute the Gerber sisters trio. They are also noted for their broadcasting of sacred music and occasionally singing at gatherings of religious nature.

6. Lizzie, lost her life as a child by an accident.

7. Elma, wife of Reuben Hofstetter live on a farm at the



KIDRON FLOUR MILL

Built in 1929

In the fall of '29 William Nussbaum, son of Abraham Nussbaum, erected the main part of this building and added to it as his business increased. No doubt, Mr. Nussbaum thought over the possibility of success for another feed and flour business in Kidron for quite some time before his plans materialized. Thus far no flour had been made in Kidron and the milling business, fortunately, was not in direct competition with other Kidron business enterprises, but was an addition to established businesses which helped to bring more trade to our ever growing little town.

In connection with the Kidron Flour Mill, Mr. Nussbaum owns and operates an elevator and feed store in Mt. Eaton, using the bran and middling made in Kidron, in the manufacture of poultry, hog and dairy feeds which he sells in large quantities to the farmers around Mt. Eaton.

north end of Benville. Their children are, Benjamin, Ellen and Richard all at home. With them is living Mr. Hofstetter's mother and stepmother of Mrs. H.

The Ben Amstutz family have experienced several serious tragedies.

Urban Amstutz son of Amos was kicked by a horse which was running loose in the barn yard, and was instantly killed.

Lizzie, daughter of Ben, was also killed by a horse, which resulted from falling down from the hayloft where the girl was hunting eggs for Easter. A sad Easter was the fate of the family.

The most serious of all as the tragic death of the father and grandfather, which occurred on a Monday, day after Easter in the year 1926. Ben was engaged in blasting stumps on the farm where his son-in-law Philip Gerber lives, and for some reason, while in the act of preparing the charge, it went off killing him instantly.

Jacob the youngest of the five brothers, after married lived on several farms near Orrville and in 1908 moved to this community where he now lives on a farm near the Sonnenberg Church. His children were as follows: Simon died at age of seven; Rhoda, married to John C. Hofstetter died in the year 1918. Lina, wife of Sam E. Nusbaum lives on a farm in Paint Twp. Louis, lives on a farm near the church of which he is minister for many years. Emma and Enos were invalids for many years and both died. Edna, wife of Aaron Lehman lives on a farm south of Kidron. Dan with his family live on the home farm with his father. Albert with his family live on a small farm in Paint Township. Jacob has the satisfaction that his children all belong to the same church as he does.

Mary Ann, only daughter of John Amstutz Sr. was married to Christian A. Sommer. They lived on the Pioneer farm located at the crossroad between the Sonnenberg and Salem Churches. They were life long members of the Sonnenberg Church where she had an active part as S. S. teacher and song leader. In her younger years she conducted singing schools for children and often for older folks, in school house and in the church were she was a member. Mr. Sommer was a successful farmer, living on the same farm where he was born, formerly his father's homestead, where he also died. They had no children, but always showed interest in other children. They died about a year apart. The Rev. Louis Amstutz family have been living on the farm for many years.

Since this history was started about our town and its activities, we were requested to give account of the people of the community and their occupations. This became more of a task but since we have given accounts of a number of families and residents of this school district, we shall endeavor to make the round and mention all and if there are any omitted, it is not done intentionally. In giving a history of pioneers it should be done by some older person, but since the town Kidron had its start about fifty years ago, so our history shall be from then on because that is as far back as our memory goes, and before

that we have no record and it would be about impossible to gather sufficient information to make a complete history for a much longer time.

One of our early pioneers was C. C. Welty, well known to most of the older people living. His wife was Anna Boegly, so they were generally known as Boegly Waelty. They lived on a farm of about 160 acres a mile and a half north west of Kidron. Christ was a successful farmer in his own old fashioned way, and was not so fast in following all improvement in farm equipments. When his neighbors had more modern machinery, he would scorn and make remarks. We shall not mention what terms he used when he saw the first hay tedder in operation, but it was not long until he drove to his neighbor, when he was in a dilemma with his hay crop, to inquire if he could borrow that tool from him. We wonder what he would say now if he could see his son-in-law and grandson, doing much of their work with tractor and other modern machinery on the same farm.

Mr. Welty was a very interesting and good-natured old gent in many ways. People who worked there had no complaint to make. Good board and fair treatment was his motto. Even way-farers always had a good word for him, and would seldom be turned away, from receiving a nights lodging for a little bit of work. After he would employ them for some time in order to give them spending money. This reminds us of one incident when one of those fellows was employed to cut down some trees and while at their task the man was struck by the tree which was falling, killing him instantly. This brought a lot of grief upon Mr. Welty and his family, a sight which they could never forget.

It would be more interesting to give these incidents in the Swiss language of which he was very fond. In speaking to some one about the many different languages, he remarked in Swiss: "As waer besser wenn numa ei sprach waer un, das ish das Schwitzer duetch." They had four daughters, their names were Dinah, Sarah, Fanny and Caroline.

Their farm was later divided and Caroline, married to Jacob D. Zuercher remained on the homestead and Fanny receiving the north half, the extreme northwest corner of this school district. She live there and rented the fields to neighboring farmers, and after her death the farm was sold to Grover Gerber who lives there with his family, and his children are going to Kidron school.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Zuercher have one son, Ivan who grew up on the Welty farm and has been assisting his parents with farming. He was married recently to Miss Verda Amstutz and will very likely remain on the farm and take possession of it.

The other daughters of Welty have also lived in this community and raised families. By all, we presume they also attended Kidron school. Dinah, married to Dan M. Gerber had the following children:

1. Amos Gerber living in Oregon.
2. Levina, Mrs. David J. Hofstetter, farmer.

3. Adam, deceased.
4. Rufus, living on the home farm.
5. Philip, living in Benville.
6. Hulda, Mrs. John C. Hofstetter, farmer.
7. Anna, Mrs. Ed. Zuercher, living near Orrville.
8. Edna and Delbert at home.

Slyvan Hofstetter, Lavina's oldest son is a resident at the west end of Kidron. They have one daughter of school age, fifth generation.

Sarah, second daughter of Chr. Welty, was married to Adam Shoemaker, and also live in this school district for some time later at other places. Some of their children attended the Kidron school. Their names are:

1. Lizzie, Mrs. C. C. Nussbaum, deceased.
2. Rhoda, died in childhood.
3. John, living in Oregon.
4. David, living at Pandora, Ohio.
5. Lydia, Mrs. L. Zimmerly, north of Orrville.
6. Susan, Mrs. Earl Gerber, north of Dalton.
7. Homer, farmer near Stanwood.
8. Henry, living in Oregon.
9. Menno, deceased, his family living with the Dan P. Gerber family, northeast of Kidron.

Another pioneer family were Mr. and Mrs. Abe A. Tschantz, who lived just east of the Welty farm. Nothing of prominence is known to us of them, except that they were a good natured generous old couple and highly respected. They both died at an old age. Mr. Tschantz had a tragic death so to say. He good-naturedly bought some patent medicine from a faker salesman, the use of which, perhaps improperly directed, caused his death. The Tschantz's had no children, but gave their home to several young people who went to Kidron school from there. About all we can recall are Emily Welty, now Mrs. John Rohrer, Ft. Wayne, Ind. Eli Kirchhofer and his wife, formerly Miss Ida Nussbaum.

The farm was later sold to Dan J. Lehman who at present operates with the assistance of his children, who all attended Kidron school.

Mr. and Mrs. Lehman have six children living. Amos, farmer north of Kidron, is also operating a ditching machine, doing custom work for farmers over a large territory.

Ezra, farmer northeast of Kidron is also teamster doing a lot of that kind of work in the community. Martha, doing house work, and has been in faithful service for the Dr. N. C. Meyer family in Apple Creek, for many years.

Noah, Elmer and Sylvia are at home assisting with farming. Two children died in their childhood.

Just adjoining the Dan Lehman farm are the Nussbaums.

Rev. Jacob Nussbaum, also a pioneer farmer and minister of the Sonnenberg Mennonite Church, for perhaps over forty years lived there to the time of his death. Their children who were pupils of Kidron school are:

1. Katie, employed in Canton.

2. Menno, operating a garage in Kidron, his children attending Kidron school.

3. Simon, living with his family on the homestead with his mother. Their children are pupils of Kidron school.

4. Noah, was in the garage business with his brother Menno in Portage Co., died in the prime of life.

Just east of the last two mentioned farms, lived the C. C. Tschantz family. Mr. Tschantz died at the age of 88 and Mrs. Tschantz at the age of 82. Their children are:

1. Albert, pupil of Kidron, student of Wadsworth, is living at Palmira, Pa.

2. Elma, Mrs. D. A. Moser, pupil of Kidron, also taught the school and other schools in this township. They have been in business at several places, and at present are conducting a store in Massillon. They have one daughter Ruth, now Mrs. Henry Simmons.

3. Clara, died at the age of three.

4. Lillie, wife of Wilson Hofstetter lived on the home farm many years, later moved to another farm just one half mile north where they live at present. Their children were Kidron pupils and graduates of Dalton High School.

1. Agnes, wife of Noah Nussbaum who is a carpenter, and employed at the Kidron Auction. They live north east of Kidron. Agnes, was formerly telephone operator in the Kidron Exchange.

2. Orran, agent and truck driver for the Wayne Co. Farm Bureau. He is specializing in gas, oils and fertilizer having an extensive trade far and wide.

Vida, Mrs. Dr. Myers, living in Canton.

Ralph, employed at Smithville.

Ward, assisting at home with farming, also occasionally assists his brother Orran.

The Tschantz farm was sold to Elmer Amstutz, who lived there several years, whose history had appeared previously. He sold the farm to John Amstutz, who lives there at present. John is also one of our Township Trustees. They have two sons Russel and Roy, who were pupils of Kidron school. Russel is employed at the Kidron flour mill. Roy attends Dalton High School.

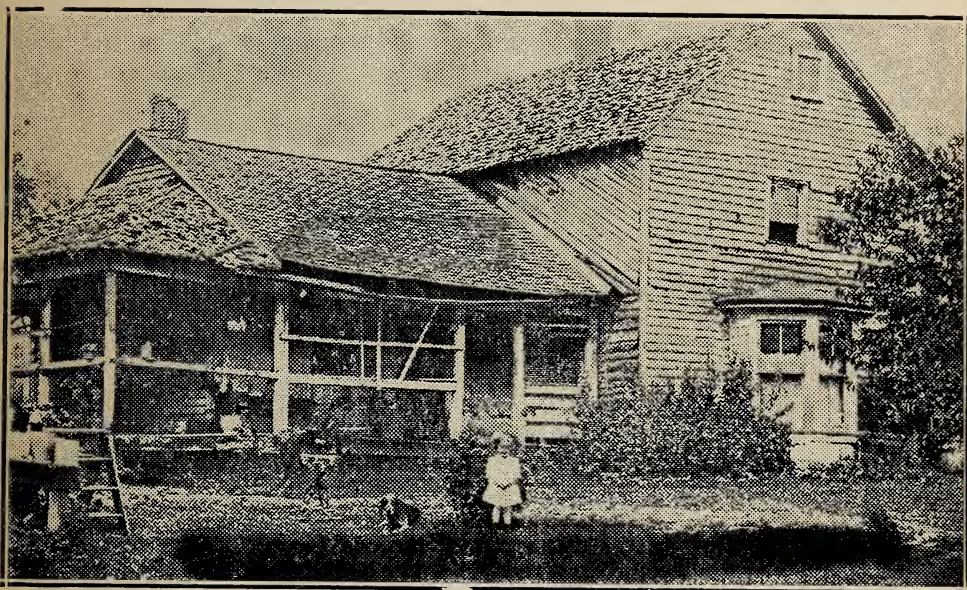
Just across the road from the John F. Amstutz farm is the Sam I. Nussbaum farm. This is a part of the former Sam Geiger farm which was divided into three smaller farms.

Mr. Geiger built a new home at the south end where they lived many years then sold it to Noah J. Bixler, who recently sold it to Wm. P. Tschantz. The Geiger homestead came into possession of Mr. and Mrs. Joel Lehman now of Orrville, who later sold it to Amos Sprunger, deceased. His family still occupy the place.

David N. Amstutz built a new home on the west part, where they lived many years and their children were pupils of Kidron school. Mr. Amstutz sold the farm to Sam I. Nussbaum, who with his family lives there and his children are also attending Kidron school.

One of the early pioneers of the Kidron community was Peter Hoffstetter Sr. He was a son of Nickolas and Anna Moser Hofstetter, deceased. Peter was a very active citizen of Sugar Creek Twp. He was a successful farmer, was one of the directors of the Sonnenberg Fire and Lightning Insurance Association for a long period of time, and was also a member of the school board of the Byall or Kidron school district. There were formerly three directors for one district, who did the hiring of the teachers, each holding the office for three years, being elected alternately every year. Mr. Hofstetter held that office for several terms.

Peter and Katherine Neuenschwander, Hofstetter had a family of seven children: Daniel P., John P., Anna, Katherine, Elizabeth, Sara and Peter P. They were all pupils of this school district and later were residents of this community.



Built in 1819

A part of this house is still standing and is used for a summer house or shop by the John Geiger family, who now own the farm.

The Daniel P. Hofstetter family owned this home for many years and later built a beautiful new structure closer to the road.

A. Daniel lived on a farm one mile north of Kidron till he retired and now lives in Orrville.

Daniel and Emma Oplinger Hofstetter had the following children who also were pupils of Kidron school.

1. Calvin and Emma Graber Hofstetter, together were teachers of Kidron school for several years. Later they moved from the community, living at various places, always being active at some important occupation. At present they are living on a farm in Stark Co. near Massillon, where they are

part time farming, and Mr. Hofstetter is also teaching school near Bowdil in the same county. Their children are Ruth, Roy and Grace, all at home.

2. Nora H., wife of William Fink are residents of Orrville, where they also are employed.

3. Nelson and Maxine Hagerty Hofstetter live at Canal Fulton, O. They have two children, Henry and Luetta Jane.

4. Roy and Phyllis Harvey Hofstetter are living at Canal Fulton, O. They have one child, Dorothy Jane.

5. Merle and Lucile Lyons Hofstetter live at Youngstown, O. Children Carolyn, David Lyons and Franklin.

6. Wilma H. and her husband Taylor Gilbert have the following children: Leona, Elmer and Daniel. They live at Smithville, O.

7. Leona H. is at home with the parents in Orrville, O.

B. John P. and Amanda Graber Hofstetter lived near Kidron many years. First they lived where Will Geiser lives now, later they built a new home north west of Kidron, where Wm. Nussbaum now lives and still later they moved to Orrville, where Mr. Hofstetter died. Their children are Metta, Sarah and Melvin.

1. Metta, Mrs. Jim Lagnere, had the following children: Arvilla and Hazel. They all live in Orrville, Ohio.

2. Sarah, Mrs. John Heiman, had the following children: Melvin, Ralph and Evelyn. They live at Alliance, Ohio.

3. Melvin is at home in Orrville and is working on the railroad.

C. Anna, Mrs. Chr. J. Lehman, had the following children: Jennie, Philip, Delphine, Wilson, Ephriam, Lloyd, Ella and George.

1. Jennie, Mrs. Henry Kraus, Dalton, O. Their family, Marion, Clarence, Glenda Lenora, Howard, Elizabeth, Mary and Nellie. Mr. Kraus, has been employed as janitor of the Dalton school buildings for many years and Jennie, his wife, very ably assisted him with the work. Marion has been employed at various places, also traveled considerably. Clarence is employed in the Dalton Gazette printing office. Glenda, wife of Oran Turner, is living at New Philadelphia. They have two children, Frederic Dale and Franklin Howard. These are great, great grandchildren of Peter Hofstetter Sr. The other Kraus children are at home with their parents.

2. Philip, a pupil of Kidron school and for many years a faithful worker at various positions, was in service over seas in the World War, where he lost his life as a hero of this community. The news of his death cast a gloom over all who knew him.

3. Delphine, wife of Willis Sommer who is proprietor of the firm of Sommer & Gerber I. G. A. store in Kidron. Their children are: Joana and Blake, pupils of Kidron school. Blake is also newsboy for the Wooster Daily Record, delivering daily to the residents of Kidron.

Willis Sommer was also in service in the World War, but Providence was gracious in bringing him back in good health.

Another of our young men who was in service in the World War was Harvey Sprunger, whom everybody knows. This makes three from our little town, who gave their service to our county.

4. Wilson and Clara Crawford Lehman of Bay Village, O., have the following children: Rose Marie and Jane Ina.

5. Ephriam and Nellie Doerr Lehman, are living on a farm at Franklin, Penn. Their children are Florence, Ethel, Alice, Ray, Dorothy, Lucy Ann, Paul Lewis, Mildred, Laura and Gladys.

6. Ella, Mrs. William Richmond, had the following children: Cleora, Richard, Rolland, Karl Emery and Oliver John. They live in Orrville, O., where Mr. Richmond is employed as lineman by the Ohio Central Telephone Co.

7. Lloyd and Elsie Davis Lehman are living in Orrville and have one daughter. He is employed in the Pennsylvania Express Office.

8. George and Helen Prine, live in Orrville, O. He is employed in Massillon Central Steel Corp.

The C. J. Lehman family formerly lived on a farm east of Kidron, till after the death of Mr. Lehman in 1918. The farm is now occupied by the John Burkholder family.

D. Kathrine, deceased, wife of David P. Moser, lived on a farm near Dalton. They had four children:

1. Bertha Brown Scott, her children are Evelyn and Harold Brown. They live at Lakewood, Ohio

2. Calvin and Elma Badertscher Moser live on a farm near Dalton. Their children are: Robert, Merle and Donald.

3. Ruth, wife of Carl Lawrence lives in Dalton. They have two children, Glen and Elsie. Carl has a paint store in Dalton.

4. Glenn and Frieda Ruder Moser live at Winesburg, O. He is salesman for the Rawleigh Co. They have two children: Clarence and Arthur Glenn.

E. Elizabeth, wife of Christian Hofstetter, is living with her step son John C. Hofstetter north east of Kidron, since the death her husband.

F. Sarah, Mrs. Eph. Hostetter of Orrville, O. She was a pupil of Kidron school and Mr. Hostettler later was teacher of the school. They formerly lived on a farm near Smithville where their children were born.

1. Elma, Mrs. Carleton Weimer of Lanai City, Lanai Hawaii. Their children are Elsie Carol and Lenora Kathrine.

2. Lloyd Hostetler, Orrville, O.

3. Elmer Hostetler, Orrville, O.

4. Mary, Mrs. Forest Musser of Winchester Center, Conn. They have one daughter, Janet Elizabeth.

G. Peter P. and Seraphim Nussbaum Hofstetter were both pupils of Kidron school. They lived on the old Peter Hofstetter farm many years and later moved to Massillon, where he is engaged in landscape gardening and other jobs.

They sold the farm to Peter Schwartzentruber, who are living there at the present time. The children of P. P. Hof-

stetter are:

1. Matilda, Mrs. Andrew Maurer. They are both employed in Canton, Ohio.

2. Edna, Mrs. Harvey Badertscher. Mr. B. is employed by the Snyder Oil Co. They live in Orrville, O. Their children are Valeda, Eleanor and Wilford.

3. Sylvia, Mrs. Alvin Gerber of Canton, O. have the following children: Curtis, Wayne and Shirley Mae.

4. Mamie, Mrs. Elmer Hofstetter. Their children are Stanley and Donna.

5. Irvin and Ethel Grofweiler Hofstetter of Cleveland, O. have the following children: William and Richard Irvin.

6. Glenn H. of Massillon, O.

7. Laurene, Mrs. Chester Bolender, of Massillon, have one daughter, Patty Jeann.

The Dan P. Hofstetter farm was formerly occupied by a Studer family later by Peter Schneck who was also a carpenter. Mr. Schneck was also a member of the school board serving this district as one of the directors. Then the Hofstetter family lived there where their children grew up and were educated in Kidron school. They sold the farm to John Geiger who with his family live there. His children were also pupils of the same school as was their father. Mr. Geiger was raised on the tenant farm on the west end of the Dan H. Amstutz farm. His father's name was Christian Geiger. John had two brothers Christian deceased and Noah who lives near Moscow.

John and Elizabeth Lehman Geiger had the following children: Emma, Mrs. Clyde Bixler, near Dalton; Bertha, Mrs. Lester Shaller, near Orrville; Lydia, Adam and Rosena at home.

Besides the Geiger family other families who lived on the D. H. Amstutz tenant farm were the Ruesser, Brunner, Ben D. Amstutz, Adam Amstutz, Lester Shaller, David Basinger families. At present the Paul Amstutz family is living there from where his children are going to Kidron school. Paul is both farmer and painter.



WILLIAM A. NUSSBAUM

Owner of the Kidron Flour Mill

and

Mt. Eaton Elevator

(Mr. Nussbaum's Mill is shown on
another page)

The electrotpe of Mr. Nussbaum shown with this description was selected by the writer from among a number of recent photos as the one best suited to portray his business personality.

The little farm which was a part of the old Hofstetter home farm where John P. built a new home was later occupied

by the following families: Fred Buss, Adam Sommer who had the misfortune to find their home on fire when returning home from church, which destroyed it with all the contents. Sam I. Nussbaum owned the home at the time but sold it to Andy Hofstetter soon after, who built a new house and lived there several years and later sold it to Fred Boss. After living there several years he sold it again. At present the Wm. Nussbaum family own and occupy it and their children are pupils of Kidron.

Adjoining the John Geiger farm on the east, is also a place where many families lived. As far back as we can recall was the Christian Rohrer family of which Fred Rohrer, editor of the Berne Witness, was a member. The other boys were John, Ernest and Robert who were our school mates. Then there was a Gilman family and later the John P. Hofstetter family whose history appears in this issue. The farm was then sold to Fred Kiener who lived there only a few years and then sold it to John Badertscher who lived there about twenty-five years, where much sorrow and misfortune was his lot. He lost two wives and several children by death. His other children were pupils of Kidron school. Their names are Irene, Albert, Milton, Ivan, Llewellyn, Florence, Hulda, Ida, Martha, Mary and Thomas. Irene, Mrs. Dan Morand lives at Berne, Ind. The others' history appeared previously and the latter three are living with their mother in Stark Co. John died quite suddenly in an Alliance Hospital about a year ago.

John Badertscher sold the farm in 1925 to William Geiser who with his family are living there since. Their children are pupils of Kidron school district.

A part of this and a part of the John Geiger, the former Dan P. Hofstetter farm was sold to Allen Geiser who built a new home and other buildings and is living on the place, where he specializes in raising poultry and berries, besides regular farming.

Adjoining the Allen Geiser farm on the south side is the Jacob Lehman farm, which is a part of the Chr. Amstutz farm. The Amstutz farm, which formerly was 160 acres, was divided into two farms, Peter C. Amstutz coming into possession of the home farm and his sister, Magladene, wife of John A. Lehman, receiving the north half of the farm which was without buildings. Mr. and Mrs. Lehman immediately proceeded to build, but before completing even a dwelling house, they sold to Jacob J. Lehman, who then completed the building and moved in and later enlarged the dwelling house and also built a good sized barn which was destroyed by fire a few years ago. They built a new barn not so large as the first one, since they sold part of the farm to Jacob Moser of Kidron. One acre of this farm is now the school ground where the Kidron school house stands. Jacob and Caroline Hofstetter Lehman, have lived on the place forty-one years, even since they own it, and have reared their family of nine children. Their names are: Otto, Floyd, Pearl, Merle, Carrie, Lillian, Ruth, Ethel and Dorothea. They were all pupils of Kidron school and graduates of Dalton High school.



BLACKSMITH SHOP OPERATED SINCE 1914

by F. R. Saurer

This building was erected in the early part of the present century and operated first by George Homnard, later by John F. Moser, but since Aug. 1914 it was owned and operated by Floyd R. Saurer, son of Otto Saurer who lived one mile west of Kidron for a number of years, but who now lives just off Rt. 250. F. R. lives in a beautiful home at the east end of the village. Mr. and Mrs. Saurer are the parents of two children: Floris, the daughter, graduated from Dalton High School in 1935 and Russel, now a junior in the same school, helps his father in the shop during his vacation.

Mr. Saurer also employs two other men: Jay Saltzman who very ably handles the lawn mower department in the back shop, and Dan Mast who takes care of the horse shoeing part. The blacksmith and repair shop shown here is a very valuable asset to this community and Mr. Saurer and his family play a prominent part in the civic and social life of Kidron and vicinity. Hard work directed by good judgment and the application of sound business principles have made Mr. Saurer a success in life and a valuable citizen of Kidron.



OTTO LEHMAN

Mr. Lehman, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob J. Lehman, grew to young manhood in the parental home at Kidron, Ohio. He received his early business training in the clothing store of Steiner & Yoder at Orrville, Ohio, with which firm he spent 15 years. He was elected recorder of Wayne Co. in 1930, and was re-elected in 1932, and has been deputy recorder under M. S. White since 1934.

Ott, as everybody knows him, announced his candidacy for the State Legislature in the spring of 1936, and received nearly as many votes at the Democratic primary as his four or five opponents together. The outcome of the fall election, at this time, June 1st, is not known, but it is predicted by his friends that he will represent Wayne County at the State Legislature as their next representative.

Otto and Ethel Wilgamott Lehman, have been living in Orrville and Wooster where Mr. Lehman has been employed in Clothing stores and other positions and has served as County Recorder for two terms. He has been suffering from a serious ailment, which resulted from an injury when he was a boy in grade school, which seriously handicaps him in his various activities. They have three sons named Robert, Rolland and Roger Lee.

Floyd and Gertrude Rohrer Lehman are living at Likewood where Mr. Lehman is employed. He has been teaching school in this township after his graduation. They have four children named Irvin, June, Elwood and Dwane.

Pearl has for a number of years been employed in Los Angeles, California, by the Liquid Carbonic Pacific Corporation.

Merle has been employed in Massillon, but recently was working at the painter's trade and has been doing considerable sign painting, at which he is quite an artist.

Carrie has been teaching school at various places, taught in Kidron several terms and at present is teaching at W. Lebanon.

Lillian, who is a graduate nurse, completed her course in Massillon City Hospital, in which city she is now living. She is married to Henry Potts. He is employed in the Aluminum

Works at Massillon. They have one child, Ronald Henry.

Ruth is employed as secretary in the office of the president of Bluffton College.

Ethel is employed at Bechtels, Wooster, Ohio.

Dorothea is teaching school at Sterling, Ohio.

Directly south from the Lehman farm is the former P. C. Amstutz farm now owned and occupied by Chr. A. Nussbaum. Christ and Metta Wyss Nussbaum have successfully operated the farm for many years, very ably assisted by their two daughters Gladys and Lilly. Lilly is staying at home and Gladys is married to Paul Keiner also of this community. They live in the east part of Kidron and have one son, Roger Lee.

Paul has for several years been in the employ of Wm. Nussbaum at the Kidron flour mill and now is engaged in carpenter work with Albert J. Nussbaum. Donald Amstutz is also working with the above mentioned carpenters.

The Albert J. Nussbaum family, who are living in the west part of Kidron, have formerly been farming but for many years he was engaged in carpenter work. For several years there were five or six brothers working together, later some of them went to farming, some took other jobs and Albert has employed other men since.

Albert and Olive Badertscher Nussbaum have the following children:

Millen, has for some time been working with his father and now he is employed in the South Side Grocery, known as Hofstetter Bros. store.

Vida, Florence and Eunice are at home and occasionally are employed at house work for other families. They all were pupils of Kidron school.

Mrs. Nussbaum is a grand daughter of Christian Amstutz, who was a pioneer of this community and owned land which is now a part of Kidron. Her mother, a daughter of Chr. Amstutz, died in the Nussbaum home about two years ago, and her father about fifteen years ago.

On the east end of the school district, lies a farm just north of Jericho, a place of which we shall later give an interesting report. The farm above mentioned was occupied about fifty years ago by John C. Amstutz, oldest son of Chr. A. John later moved northwest of Orrville and still later to Oklahoma and finally to Oregon where he died.

The same farm was later occupied by Mr. and Mrs. George Berg. Mrs. Berg was also a daughter of Chr. Amstutz. Her name was Judith. They later moved to Michigan where she died several years ago.

John and Barbara Lehman Geiger Burkholder have been on the farm since 1920. Mrs. B. grew up in the Peter Hofstetter home northwest of Kidron and was a pupil of Kidron and later was employed at other places. After her marriage to Noah Geiger they lived on a farm two miles east of Pandora, O., where they lived happily together until the death of Mr. Geiger. Several years later she was married to John Burkholder, and lived at Bluffton. In 1920 they came to Wayne

County and settled on the above mentioned farm. Their children are: Pearl Geiger, wife of Amos Lehman, who live in Orrville.

Frances Burkholder, wife of Melvin Lehman, who live two miles south of Kidron on a farm where Mr. L. is specializing in raising potatoes.

Orrin, known as "Doc Watkins," is salesman of the famous J. R. Watkins Products.

Armin, who was recently married to Miss Glenda Sommer, is apprentice in the fruit growing business with his father-in-law P. C. Sommer, east of Kidron.

We are nearing the end of history of our town and vicinity. Naturally the question might come to many, where and how did Kidron get its name, and who named it.

The name was taken from the Bible, the name of a brook flowing through the Holy Land in the vicinity of the city of Jerusalem.

A stream or brook flowing through our village should rightly be called Kidron which also flows by our neighboring hamlet call Jericho, which was formerly also a small business place, where several industries were in operation.

Of course these are things beyond our memory of which our oldest people could probably give a more accurate report.

Just a little beyond Jericho there lived an old farmer, one of the oldest residents in the community at that time, named George W. Ross, a fine old gentleman of Christian character. He deserves credit for naming our little big town Kidron. About thirty years ago Mr. Ross passed away, but his name is held dear to our memory and we are proud of the name Kidron for his sake, as well as for the name itself.

Other names were suggested by other older persons, but Kidron seemed to all of them the most appropriate. Brook Kidron was also flowing through his farm, and so it must have reminded him of the romantic scenery of Palestine and its streams, valleys and hills as well as its well known villages and cities, such as Jerusalem, Jericho, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Bethany and others. Mr. Ross had four daughters, named: Della, Mrs. George Dodez; Belle, Mrs. Joel F. Amstutz; Olive, Mrs. Harvey Wear; and Myrtle, Mrs. Alvin Maurer.

The Dodez family lived on the Ross farm for some time, and later built a home in the west part of Kidron, from where their children went to the village school. Their names are as follows: Myron, who died in his youth, aged about nineteen years. Robert, who was a bright lad in school, was later, while very young, employed by Studer Bros. of Applecreek in the milling business which position he still holds as one of their leading men. Frank was also employed at the same place for many years. Emily, only daughter remained after her marriage, with her mother on the farm near Applecreek which they had bought after leaving Kidron. Mr. Dodez, died in their home at Kidron where since many families lived. The people who lived there were the families of Valentine Gerber, Noah

Lehman, Fred Lautenschlager, Raymond Saurer, David N. Amstutz, Harvey Lehman, Will Nussbaum. The property is now owned and occupied by Anna Baumgartner.

Mr. and Mrs. Joel J. Amstutz, who had one daughter Ruth lived at Kidron and later moved to Applecreek where they lived on a farm till the death of Mr. Amstutz. They had an only child Ruth Amstutz, who died at the age of ten, for whom the second Ruth Amstutz of this town has been named.

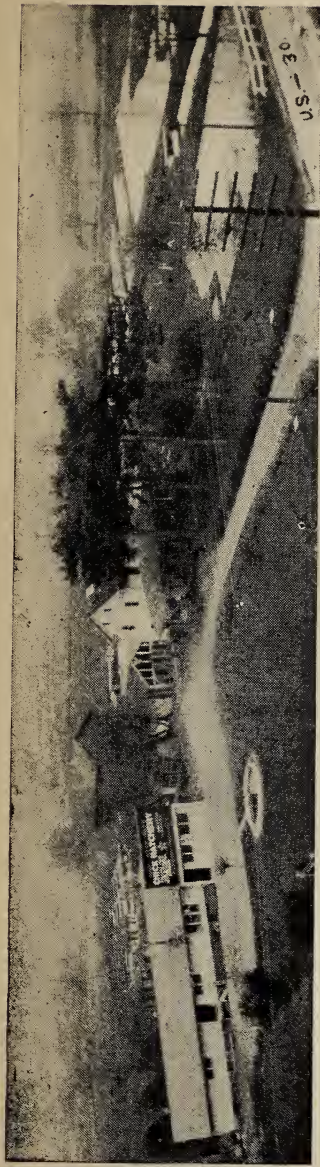
The Harvey Wear family also settled on a farm west of Applecreek. Mr. Wear died a few years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Maurer operated the Ross farm for several years then he built a home in Kidron, one of the first houses built in this town which was later occupied by the following families: John J. Bixler, Harvey Lehman, Andy Hofstetter and now by the C. R. Sprunger family, of which Cy Sprunger is a member.

The Maurer family then moved on a farm near Wooster and later moved to Apple Creek, where Mr. Maurer held the position as janitor of the Apple Creek school building. Just recently he was a contestant in the county corn husking contest on the John Buss farm near Orrville. The Ross farm was sold to Reuben Lehman, who lived there many years, but has rented it to several parties for a number of years.

Now we are going back to Jericho where we left off with the business operations. One of the leading enterprises was the Wool factory which then represented a valuable industry, although not with modern machinery like today, but meant much to the people of the community. We do not remember who operated this factory. It must have been John Grable as he was living in Jericho before the Oplingers. Another industry was a stationary sawmill operated by water power, which was supplied by a dam just west of the village. This dam later broke out as a result from heavy rains. The land where it was, is still quite broken, rolling or hilly, but rich productive land, most of which serves for pasture from where we often would enjoy driving home the cows. The old rail-road was built directly through the valley where the dam stood. The land was divided differently later and belonged to different farms.

Other industries of Jericho were a blacksmith shop, wagon and buggy works. Men who operated same were Ben Baumgartner, who later lived at Bluffton, Ind., Mr. Mock, Mr. Zimmerly and a Mr. Hostetler. There was also a stock scale where farmers weighed their live stock which they had to sell. The operator of the sawmill was Christian Oplinger, who was the oldest and the leading resident of Jericho. He was also farmer, carpenter and contractor. He did much of that work in his days, was the architect of St. Paul's Reformed Church in Mt. Eaton which still stands as an ornament or monument to his honor. His family consisted of the following children: Christian Jr., John, Samuel, William, Lizzie, Mrs. Sam Saurer, Mary, Mrs. Thomas Locke, Emma, Mrs. Dan P. Hofstetter, whose history was given in a recent issue of the Kidron News. Christian Jr. was never married and died in this community of a compli-



VIEW OF GOLD STAR FARM ON LINCOLN HIGHWAY Orrville, Ohio

Mr. A. J. Sommer is owner and manager of the above Poultry Farm and Hatchery. Mr. Sommer came to Sonnenberg about 1906 from Putman County, O., and married Susan Moser, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter P. Moser.

Soon after his marriage he bought the Moser homestead and erected a building to house his chick hatchery, the first in Wayne Co. Later he sold the farm to his wife's brother, Frank Moser, and bought this present location, starting a program of improving which resulted in the Gold Star Chick and Fish Hatchery, one of the Beauty Spots in Wayne county. This farm is located between Wooster and Massillon on U. S. Route 30. Looking at this picture and then at the home on the Lincoln Highway as you pass by you will agree that his home is a Beauty Spot. As proof that Mr. Sommer is a good business man one need only to know that Gold Star Farm was not bought "Ready Made", but every improvement made was designed, planned, and built by Mr. Sommer.

cation of diseases.

John was not so well known by the present generation, as he later loved in Oregon.

Sam and his family lived in a tenant house on the former Peter Saurer farm, where Benny Amstutz now lives. The old house still stands. Sam was a carpenter by trade. They had two sons, Lawrence and Harvey, who were pupils of the Kidron school. The family later moved to Indiana. Sam conducted a store at Linn Grove, Indiana for a long time. Lawrence was County Superintendent of the Adams County Schools. Harvey was also engaged in school work, but died as a young man.

Wm. Oplinger was a mason by trade and was a resident of Jericho for a long time. His children went to Kidron school. The names of them were: Emma, Mrs. Arthur Lugenbill of Brewster; Celesta, Mrs. Dr. Smith of Massillon; Jessie, Mrs. Tracy Coates of Lorain; Clyde of Mt. Hope; William of Canton; Letti, Mrs. Wm. Beidler of Lorain.

The Tom Locke family lived east of Kidron for many years on the Carr farm and later moved out of the community. The Sam Saurer family lived on different farms in this county, later moved to Navarre, Stark County.

Other residents of Jericho were the Federick Kraus family, living at the east end of the village. The children of this family were also pupils of Kidron school. Their names are: Emil, deceased, formerly of Canton; Clara, Mrs. Hapusch of Detroit, Mich., is employed by Ford Motor Co.; Godfrey, also employed in Detroit; Rosa, Mrs. Earl Beaumont, living in Canton; Fred, formerly a resident of Kidron, employed by E. P. Gerber Lumbar Co., now on a farm near Navarre; Henry, living in Dalton, employed as janitor in Dalton school building; Lizzie, Mrs. J. T. Boss, living on a farm in Stark County. Mrs. Kraus, the mother of the family lived in Kidron, later in the Grossen apartment, where she died of pneumonia at a ripe old age.

Another family who lived in Jericho were the Waeflers of which John J. and Howard are members known as Waefler Bros. in the Shoe and Harness Repair Shop in Orrville, O. The house where they lived stood where J. C. Hofstetter's summer house now stands.

The Oplinger farm or property which comprised the entire Jericho was later sold to Peter S. Saurer who was formerly a pupil of Kidron school. Mr. Saurer, then made numerous changes on the place. All the old buildings were removed and new ones built by and by. A complete change took place on the premises and where many families lived before, only one had possession of the premises. Peter and Clara Reugsegger Saurer had the following children: Floyd, living in Stark County; Edna, Mrs. Haymond Graber, living with the parents on a farm two miles east of Kidron. They have two daughters, named Blanche and Mildred. Mr. Saurer later sold the farm to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob C. Hofstetter, who have been living on the place ever since and have also made improvements. They built a modern brick dwelling house, which makes an ideal country home.

Jacob C. and Anna Zuercher Hofstetter have one child, named Goldie, who is a pupil of Kidron school.

The Hofstetters built another house across the road from their own, where the N. G. Fankhauser family lived for a number of years. Their two daughters Magdalene and Dorothea were both teaching in the Kidron school.

Maggie, Mrs. Wm. Geiger, lives in Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands. Dorothea, Mrs. Eugene Hallam, lives in Highland, Maryland. Mr. and Mrs. Fankhauser now live in a new home of their own in Sonnenberg, on a part of the Christ Zuercher farm.

After the Fankhauser family, there lived at the same place in Jericho, Mr. and Mrs. George Houmard, who was a blacksmith in Kidron. They lived there only a short time and the Fankhausers again had possession of the home. For the last few years the Ed Miller family lived in the home.

Edward and Hulda Zuercher Miller had the following children: Donald, Vivian, who died of pneumonia about a year ago, aged seven and Loren. The boys are pupils of Kidron school. Ed is a carpenter and in spare time is caring for his flock of high bred chickens. It might be of interest to people about the pond or swimming pool which Mr. Hofstetter constructed, which gave much enjoyment and amusement to the young folks. In connection they had a bath house which furnished necessary accommodations. They also had a boat to row and in winter it served for harvesting ice which was put up in an ice house. This was kept up only a few seasons and was later abandoned.

About half way between the two villages Jericho and Kidron lies a farm which was formerly called the "Hartman Farm" where since many families lived. It must be over a hundred years that Mr. Hartman came in possession of the farm, and so was the pioneer. The house that still stands was built by him over a century ago, where his children were born of which one is living in Orrville, who is Mrs. S. M. Kirk. The house was very substantially constructed and originally consisted of six rooms and an old fashioned fireplace built in, which has since been removed, and the house otherwise altered and repaired several times. After the Hartman's the farm belonged to George Jameson of whom we have no history. They sold the farm to Nicholas Amstutz, who owned it for many years and rented the house to families who worked for him.

One party who lived there was the Peter M. Simon family. The aged couple of over eighty years are living north of W. Lebanon, near Shillings school house Sugar creek Township. Their children Everett, Howard and Miss Ola are all well known in Kidron. After the Simons the Rudy Graber family lived on the place up to the year of 1897, and then they moved to two miles west of Kidron, where Mr. Graber conducted a cheese factory for a number of years.

The parents both died many years ago. Their children attended the Kidron school while they lived here. Their names are as follows: Ella, Mrs. John F. Saurer living on the home

farm, 2 miles west of Kidron. Fred, lives at Wooster and is employe at the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station; Clara, living in Wooster; Edna, Mrs. Benny Saurer, Rittman, O.; Hilda, Mrs. Paris Bupp, Exp. Station, Wooster; Raymond, living on a farm two miles east of Kidron; Erma, Mrs. Harry Malcuit of Apple Creek; Laura, teaching school at Apple Creek.

In 1897, Jacob Sommer moved on the Hartman farm and lived there ten years and then sold it to Fred Badertscher.

The Bodertschers lived there five years, then sold it to J. L. Amstutz. The history of the above families appeared before.

From 1912 to 1923 the L. E. Amstutz family lived on the farm, and then moved to Kidron but continued to operate the farm for another ten years. During that time the following people lived on the place: Rev. and Mrs. A. R. Keiser, who live in Dalton now; the Ezra Kiener family, now at Apple Creek; Mr. Andy Geib and then the George Null family.

At present the David J. Lehman family are living on the farm and their children are pupils of Kidron school.

At the south end of the school district, along the Paint Township line is another pioneer farm, Abraham Amstutz, who was the direct pioneer of said farm purchased the land from his father-in-law, A. C. Tschantz, and built a home there about sixty years ago. His family history has given previously.

Mr. Amstutz sold the farm to Wm. H. Lehman about 1890, and then moved to a farm near Orrville, where John Seigenthaler now lives.

The Lehman family lived there about fifteen years and then moved to a farm just west of Kidron where Sylvester now lives. After that, the Dan B. Bixler family lived there for several years. Their children are Orlo, Dora and Milo, some of which were pupils of Kidron school. They now live on a farm near Wadsworth.

After the Bixlers, the Solomon Saurer family lived on the farm. Their three children are Erma, Mrs. Clyde Gerber; Herbert and Gladys, Mrs. Maynard Engle. The family later moved to a farm near West Lebanon.

After them his brother Aaron and his family lived there for a few years. They had one son, Dennis, while there. They now live on a farm near Dalton, where several more children were born to them.

After them the Eli J. Nussbaum family moved on the farm and are living there now. Their children are pupils of Kidron school and assisting with the work on the farm. Their names are: Celesta, Lorene, Aldis, Willis, Clayton, Orpha, Esther and Glenford.

Eli was also a carpenter and thresher before he went to farming.

Across the road from the Nussbaum farm was the Jameson farm. Silas Jameson, one of the pioneers, lived there many years, where his children grew up and were pupils of Kidron school. Howard was a musician and would often entertain the neighborhood, with his violin and horn. They were missed very much when they moved out of the community.

Howard was married to Rachel Frazee also of this community. They lived on several farms and now on a small farm at the north edge of Dalton. They have one daughter Winona married to Donald Stahl, who live with the parents.

Howard had one sister, Jennie, who later taught in the Kidron school and other places. Jennie, now Mrs. Evans, lives in Los Angeles, Calif.

Silas Jameson sold the farm to John and Anna Welty, who lived there for many years and later lived on a small farm east of Kidron.

A part of the Jameson farm was later sold to Dan Welty, who built a new home where they now live. Their children all attended Kidron school.

Arvine, after he was out of school, was employed by Adam Amstutz as truck driver and also by the Kidron Telephone Co. as lineman. He never attended High School but with his natural intelligence and ambition worked himself up and rose to prominence. As a young man he started in the buying and selling of livestock at which he was almost an expert. For several years he was in the shipping business at Berne, Indiana, and for a number of years he has been employed by the Brady Bros. leading livestock buyers and shippers at the same place. Arvine and Martha Welty had two children: Lewis Daniel, who died about six months ago, at the age of four, and a daughter, Ruth Ann.

Elta Welty has been employed by the Lothrop family of Canton, Ohio, for many years, where she was a faithful servant to the family and was esteemed and regarded almost as one of the family. She was privileged to make occasional trips with them to Florida and other places.

Ruth, Mrs. Arnold Raber, has with her family been living at the east end of Kidron in the Wm. Nussbaum home. They have one child named Harrold Dean. Arnold is a carpenter and at times is employed by E. P. Gerber Lumber Co. A few days ago they moved in with the Dan Welty family.

Esther, Mrs. Harry Rine, is living in Massillon, where Harry has a good position as mechanic in garage and service station.

Sylvia, youngest daughter, is at home where she is in faithful service to her parents, both in the household and on the farm.

John Welty sold his farm with the buildings to Wm. H. Lehman. The Milo Miller family lived there several years to the time when Silas Lehman took over the farm. They are living there ever since and later built a new dwelling house and made other improvements. Their children are attending Kidron school and assisting with the work on the farm. Their names are: Sylvan, Idella, Carrie, Bessie and Mary.

Of the Wm. H. Lehman family, one son, Willis, lives on the Eli Amstutz farm north-east of Kidron. The others are all living near or in town.

Just west of Silas Lehman, the former Silas Jameson farm,

was the Albon Jameson farm. Albon was a relative of Silas and as pioneer farmers were also operating a threshing outfit. We are not able to give further history of Albon.

We have a long list of names of people who lived on the same farm. The Wm. Groh family consisted of parents and two sons, who attended the district school. Perry is conducting a barber shop in Fredericksburg and Harvey is in business in Akron.

Next was the Joe Lilley family who had one daughter, Artie who was a pupil of Kidron, now living in Apple Creek.

There was the Daniel Beam family who lived there only a few years.

Next was the Ben Saurer family who had one son Clyde. Ben also operated a threshing outfit for many years. Both Ben and his son Clyde were pupils of Kidron school and both were our schoolmates.

After Ben Saurer, the farm was occupied by the Dan Saurer family. They lived there many years and now live on a farm near Apple Creek.

John and Dan Saurer, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Beam and Charlie Saurer together constituted an orchestra, and often played at school entertainments and other gatherings.

Next was the Ward Blosser family who lived there six years, then they moved on the C. C. Blosser farm near Mt. Eaton. They have two children, Russel and Bessie.

Other families who lived there are as follows: John J. and Ella Graber Saurer who had three children that went to Kidron school: Roy, Pearl and Clair. Clair has been employed at the Kidron Auction sales for some time and now is in a store at Apple Creek.

The Fred Graber family also lived on the farm for two years.

After them was the David Wyss family who now live near Dalton.

The Sam Flinner family lived there about two years and then moved to a farm near Brewster.

Next was Uriah Byler who lived there several years and then moved to Iowa.

At present the Andy Yoder family live there who have children in Kidron school.

Just west of that farm was the Buss farm, formerly occupied by the Jacob Buss family and later by the John Buss family. John and Ilda Beck Buss have three children, who also were pupils of Kidron school. Their names are: Mary, Wayne and Roy. They are all grown up now. Mary is teaching school and the boys are assisting with the farm work. For the last fifteen years they were living on a farm east of Orrville, where recently the county corn husking contest was held.

The Buss farm was sold to Moses Troyer, who lived there till about a year ago. Their children were also pupils of the Kidron school. Their names are: Noah, Eli, Abe, Amanda, Ada, Elmer and Levi.

After the Troyer family the Andy Schlabach family are

living on the farm, who also have children in the Kidron school.

Just west from that farm was the former Schneck farm, of which Christian Schneck was the pioneer owner. Chr. and Catherine Amstutz Schneck had no children, but were a generous old couple to other people. He was a minister in the Sonnenberg Church to the time of his death. Rev. C. N. Amstutz, became his successor in the ministry.

His nephew John Schneck was tenant on the farm a few years, till after the death of Chr., then moved on a farm near Dalton, and later to Pandora, O., where he is a hardware merchant.

The Schneck farm was then sold to Henry Berg who lived there for many years. Their children were pupils in Kidron school.

Laura, Mrs. Fred Amstutz, living in Dalton. They have two children, Grace and Lee.

Mabel, Mrs. Wilbert Lehman, was living at various places and now on a farm at Burton City.

Levi is proprietor of a lunch room in Dalton.

John is engaged in business in Hartville, Ohio.

Alice, Mrs. Earl Younker is living in Mt. Eaton, here Mr. Younker is proprietor of a Garage.

After the Bergs the Eli Miller family lived on the farm for several years and now the Dan Stutzman family are living there. Their children are attending school at Kidron. This farm is in the extreme south west corner of the school district and of the township.

Another of the pioneers was Solomon Nussbaum, who had five daughters. They came to this country from Switzerland in the early eighties, and settled in this community. Although they did not live together as a family, they all lived and were employed at different times near Kidron. Mr. Nussbaum was employed by farmers for many years, later lived with some of his daughters. The daughters were all taken into homes and were later employed at various places. They were all pupils of this school district.

Rosa, was married to Martin Howald of Hamilton, O., where they lived for some time and later lived in Canton for a short time but most of their married life they lived in Toledo, O. They had two sons, named John, who is employed in Toledo where he also lives with his family. George, with his family is living in Detroit, Michigan, where he has a good paying position. The mother and the grandparents all died in Toledo.

Eliza, was married to Wm. P. Tschantz who was also a pupil of this school district. They lived in this community most of their life. Formerly they lived on the A. C. Tschantz farm, southeast of Kidron which was Will's birth place. Four years ago they retired from the farm and lived north of Kidron, and now they live on a small farm northeast of town.

They had six children, three of whom are living.

Elrena, graduate of High school and Bluffton College, later taught school several years. She is married to Rev. Austin R. Keiser, who is pastor of Salem Mennonite Church, two miles

north east of Kidron. They are living in Dalton, O., and have one son, Paul, who attends the grade school.

Milton, High School graduate, student at Kent, Bluffton and Ohio State, taught school at Kidron and is now instructor and coach at Greenwich, O. They have two children, Ruth and James.

Martha, Sylvan and Menno, died in their infancy.

Clayton, High School graduate, student at Galt, Cal., aviation school, and O. S. U. He is now salesman for Farm Bureau Automobile Insurance.

Seraphine, grew up in the home of Rev. and Mrs. Jacob Nussbaum, who were as her own parents. She was married to Peter P. Hofstetter. They lived on the old Hofstetter farm where their children grew up. They live in Massillon, O. Their family history appeared elsewhere in this book.

Ida was brought up in the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Eschantz, and lived there until her marriage with Eli E. Kirchofer. They live on a small farm in Sonnenberg. Their children were pupils of the Sonnenberg school, and graduates of Dalton High School.

Wilma, graduate of Bluffton College, taught school at Kidron and other places, is now employed in Cleveland.

Melvin, graduate of Bluffton College, and O. S. U. in dentistry. He has his office in Seville, O.

Ellis was employed as truck driver to Noaker Co. at Canton by Adam Amstutz and now is clerk in a Hardware store at Massillon, O. They have one son, William Ellis.

Ethel is Supervisor of the Circleville Hospital.

Clair, Bluffton College graduate, was teaching at Kidron for a number of years, is now living in Marshallville, where he is superintendent of the school. His wife, formerly Miss Florence Tschantz was also teaching in Kidron several years.

George, Bluffton College student, taught school at Fountain, E. Union Tp., Kidron and now teacher at Pleasant Valley.

Dina Nussbaum, was taken into the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Amstutz where she grew up and was educated. Later she served in the C. N. Amstutz home on the same farm. She was married to Daniel Schneck. They were living on farms for a number of years, and now live at Canton where Mr. Schneck is employed in a factory.

Alvin, has been employed at Akron in the Goodrich Rubber Plant.

Homer is employed by the United Alloy Steel Co., Canton.

Effie, Orrville High school graduate, is married to P. R. Horner. He is conductor on the Penn. Railroad. They have a family and live at Canton.

Vernon, enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps, and was stationed at Quantico, Va. At present he has a position in Canton.

Other residents of the school district were the Cornell family, who lived on the former Peter Saurer farm. Their three children, Amial, Tillie and Mary were pupils of the school and otherwise were employed by farmers of the community. Mr. Cornell, the father, was a day laborer.

The Mathias Wuetrich family, who temporarily lived in the summer house on the Chr. Amstutz farm were also patrons of this school district. The names of the children are: Emma, Maggie, Bertha, Peter and Johnny. The father was assistant cheesemaker for C. Tschantz and the mother was house keeper for C. Amstutz.

In our former history about the Amstutz farm we failed to mention that the Dan J. Hofstetter and Menno Steiner families were also residents of the same farm.

LATEST BUSINESS ADDITION

The harness and shoe business of Amstutz & Amstutz is the latest addition to the business enterprises in Kidron. Leo and Rufus Amstutz, cousins, are the partners. Their shop is on the second floor of the Kidron Auction office building. They are well equipped to do all kinds of shoe and harness repairing. They also carry a good stock of new harness.

KIDRON TEACHERS THE PAST 50 YEARS

John H. Tschantz	Mary Graber
Mr. Teeple	Maud Rudy
Philip S. Saurer	Mrs. Deitrich
John Budd	Nancy Campbell
Peter S. Berg	Jay Eberly
Emanuel Saurer	Jay Haley
A. A. Sommer	Nina Cunningham
Jonathan J. Amstutz	Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Hofsteter
Louisa Graber Johnson	Milton Tschantz
William Bixler	Irene Hogsett
Martin Numbers	Martha Gerber
Daniel C. Hofstetter	Wilma Kirchhofer
Ephriam S. Hofstetter	Martin Moser
Elma E. Tschantz	Magdalena Fankhauser
Wesley H. Zaugg	Dorothea Fankhauser
J. C. E. Jacot	Della Sprunger
Merle Ruby	Carrie Lehman
Simon Sommer	Cora Wecht
Harvey Gardner	Florence Tschantz



SNOW PICTURE

The winter of 1935-36 will be remembered as averaging the lowest temperature that the writer, now 51 years old, can remember. Thirty days of zero or below, some mornings as low as 20 degrees below zero were reported. Sixty days of steady cold with a good deal of snow and often accompanied by high winds were had. The picture above was taken on Dec. 13, 1935 at the publisher's home near Trail, Walnut Creek township, Ohio.




MR. AND MRS. DAVID A. SCHNECK

During a visit by the editor of the Kidron News and publisher of these sketches, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Schneck in the summer of 1935 the following interesting facts concerning the business activities of Mr. Schneck were revealed.

Dave, as everybody calls him was born April 19, 1858 in the old house built in 1819, which appears elsewhere in this book above the heading "Built in 1819." He joined the Sonnenberg Church March 30, 1877, was a Sunday School teacher since 1887, or 48 years, a janitor in the church 13 years, and undertaker in the church for many years. Mr. Schneck wrote 99 wills, 399 deeds and 453 contracts. He settled over 25 estates. He attended school at Byall (now Kidron) and Sonnenberg. At this time, June 1, 1936, Dave's Notary records will, no doubt exceed these figures by a good many points.

*"One generation passeth away, and another cometh:
but the earth abideth forever." Eccl. 1:4*

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